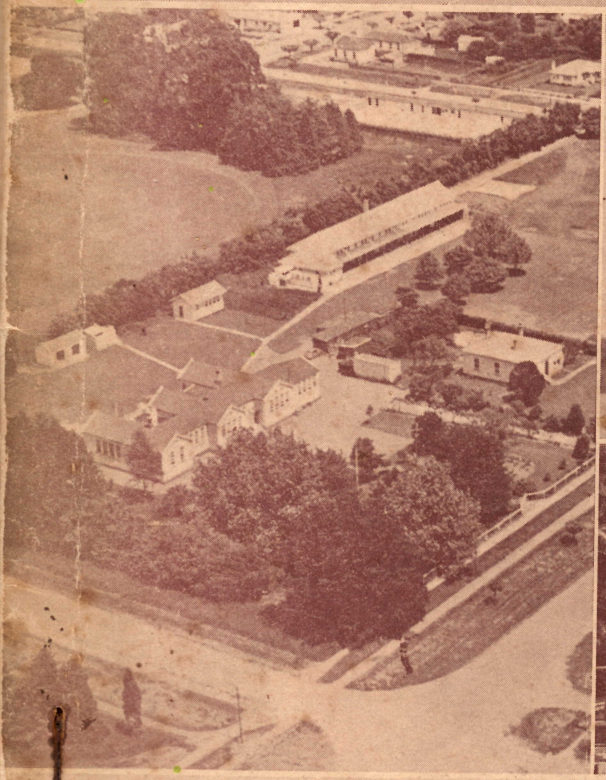
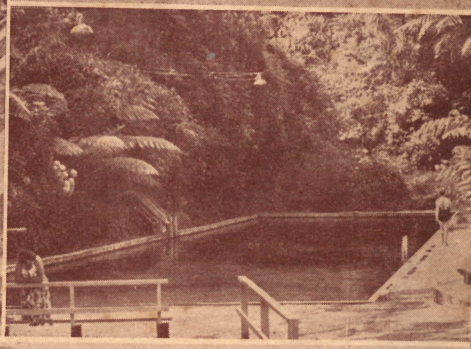
MATAMATA GOLDEN JUBILEE

1904-1954





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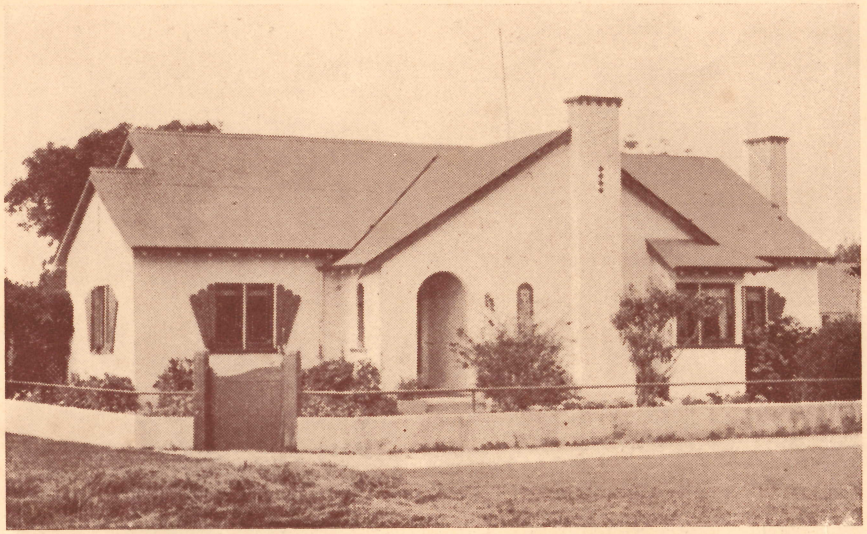


Designed and erected by E. T. Stanley to the requirement of Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Keeley, Matamata.

MATAMATA IS A DISTRICT OF BEAUTIFUL HOMES

AND FINE COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

SOME OF THE FINEST OF THESE HAVE BEEN

BUILT BY

E. T. STANLEY

BUILDER AND CONTRACTOR

$25

FOREWORD

This booklet is not intended to be an erudite history of the Matamata district, for that has been published by the Matamata County Council under the title the History of the Matamata Plains. It is rather a slight tribute to our early pioneers, and contains the briefly sketched history of almost every organisation in the area. Space was available to all, and only a thoughtless few failed to avail themselves of it.

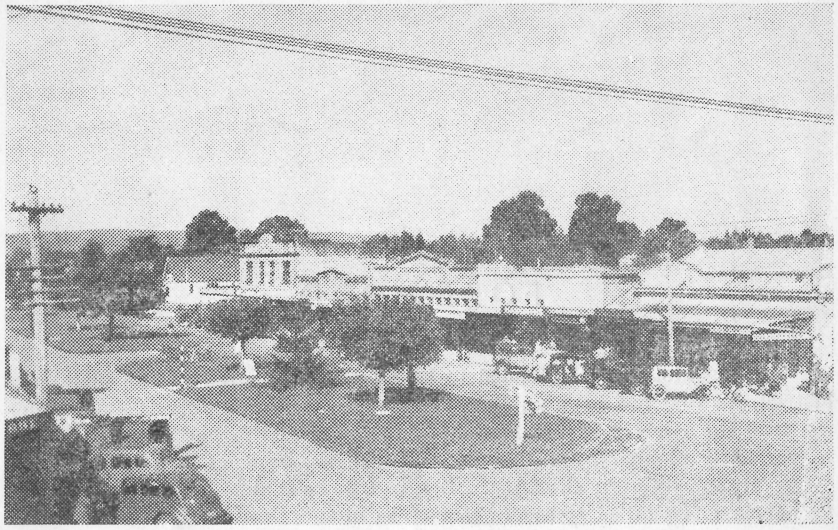
Mainly due to lack of space the booklet has its limitations, but we hope it will serve as a permanent reminder of this Jubilee year.

To all who have contributed go grateful thanks, but especial mention must be made of the stalwart work done by Miss E. V. Bell, while the help of Messrs. A. D. Molesworth, H. Dunn, A. G. Yardley and the Matamata Borough and County Councils under Messrs. E. T. Stanley and E. D. White, have made this publication possible.

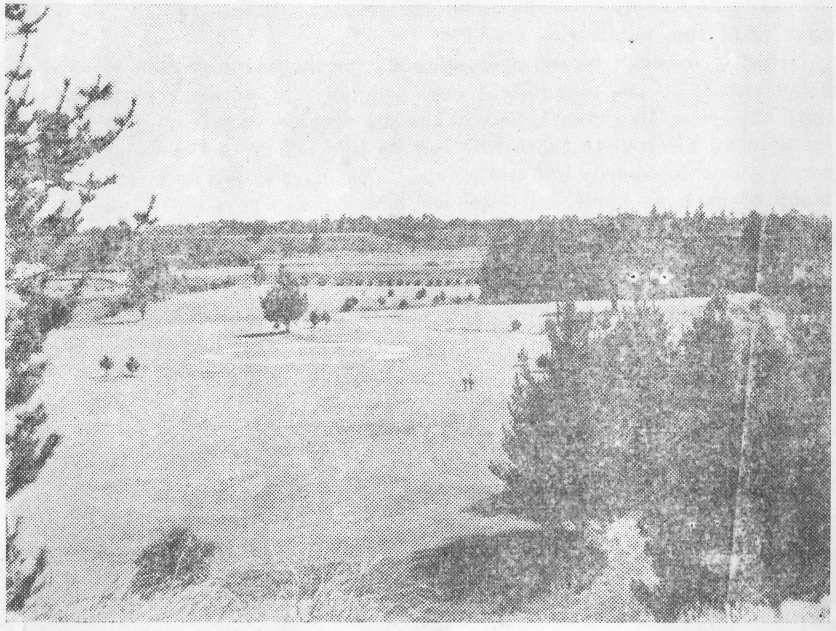
Finally would it be too presumptuous for the writer to add his insignificant tribute to the magnificent ones paid to the poineers? Although late upon the scene, like others, he realises the debt we owe them, and is grateful with all his soul to those who left us this legacy of the Golden Plains, where peace, prosperity and life within Christ have grown so strong. Though many of us have come, but late, we bow no less reverently, and do our utmost to worthily follow the traditions laid down and incorporate ourselves fully in the rich life to be led in this land.

How lovely the harvest of the years, the grain we now store. Hail to the magnificent few who left us this mighty Christian heritage.

FRANK WILSON.

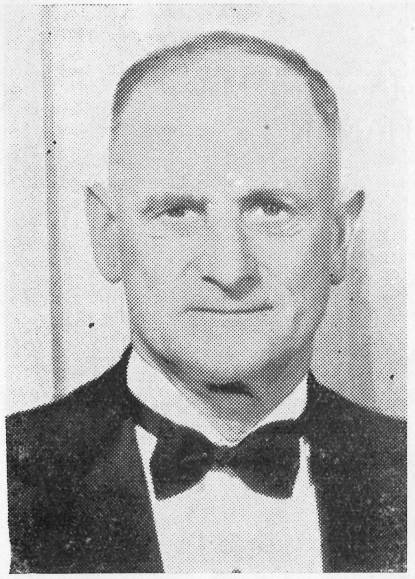


BROADWAY, MATAMATA



MATAMATA GOLF LINKS OVERLOOKING THE 8th GREEN

District Leaders' Tributes



1954 marks the 50th anniversary of the subdivision of the Matamata Estate into town sections, farmlets and farms and the settlement thereon by the pioneers who acquired those lands. During the intervening 50 years the people of Matamata have passed throug years of hardship and adversity. They have seen two wars with their toll of life, subsequent inflation and depression, and have achieved as a result of their labour, their pride of citizenship and their faith in God, one of the finest communities on God's earth.

To do honour to those early settlers this Jubilee has been inauguarated and we welcome you most cordially to join us and make this an epoch in the history of Matamata.

E. T. STANLEY.
Mayor of Matamata.

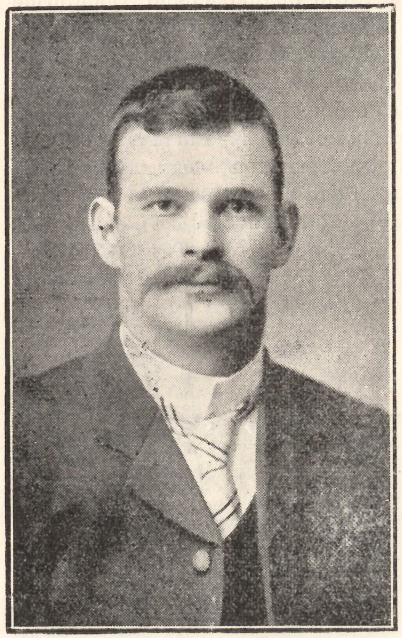
This occasion of the Jubilee of the closer settlement of the Matamata Estate will we hope be taken up by all residents in a spirit of pride and appreciation to those who were the pioneers in bringing into production an area that has made history in New Zealand's development.

I think it would be appropriate to say that "So much has been achieved in so short a time."

May this function be a time for reflection by the people of Matamata to build up and strengthen goodwill towards our fellow men, to strengthen our faith in God and thereby lay a sound foundation for the next fifty years and may those who are present on that occasion truly say, "This is God's own Country."

E. D. WHITE.
Chairman, Matamata County Council.

No block is available of a former Mayor
Mr. J. BUCHANAN



The late
Mr. W. A. GORDON
was the first Mayor

Mr. A. E. WRIGLEY
immediate past Mayor

PROGRAMME

THE PROGRAMME FOR THE WEEK IS—

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24: 12.30, Jubilee Procession, ending at Domain; 2, Official Welcome in Domain; 2.15, Historical Pageant re-enacting the district's story; 7.30, Official Dinner honouring Pioneers (those who are heads of families and settled before 1904 will be guests of the Committee); 8, Barbecue in Domain for young people.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25: Matamata Golden Jubilee Show; 8, Jubilee Swimming Carnival, Municipal Baths; 8, Matamata Old Pupils' Association Jubilee Dance, Town Hall.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26: Combined All-Schools' Jubilee Sports Day in Domain, Matamata Primary Schools' Sports Association; 9.30, Tour of District for Old Settlers, departing plantation behind Town Hall; afternoon, time for privately renewing old friendships; 8, Motion Picture Review of History of District from earliest times, of special interest to Old Settlers, Matamata Camera Club, in Town Hall.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27: Golden Juubilee Bowling Tournament, Rewa and Matamata greens; Tennis; Swimming; Combined Sports Gala Day, Matamata Domain; 8, Display by Marching Girls outside Town Hall; 8.30, Action Songs and short Concert by Maori People of Waharoa and Matamata; 9, Street Dancing, Matamata Bands.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2 : Memorial Thanksgiving Services, all Churches, Sunday morning; 1.30, Combined Church Thanksgiving Service, Matamata Domain.

GOLDEN JUBILEE COMMITTEE

This Golden Jubilee has been arranged by the Matamata Golden Jubilee Committee elected at a public meeting for the purpose. Chairman E. T. Stanley, Mayor of Matamata. Committee: Messrs A. E. Wrigley, C. Quinlan, G. Duxfield, W. Peterson, S. Price, E. Grant, Miss E. V. Bell, Rev. J. M. Blight. Hon. Sec, Frank Wilson.

The Matamata Borough Council, Matamata County Council, Matamata Club, Matamata Racing Club and private donors gave the initial funds to do the work. Everything in connection with the Jubilee has been done on an honorary basis, but even so without the above mentioned organisations it would not have been possible. The Committee thanks them and the many, who cannot be named in this brief acknowledgment, for all they have done. The booklet was compiled to the Committee's specifications by the Secretary.

AERIAL VIEW OF TOWN OF MATAMATA

AERIAL VIEW OF MATAMATA PLAINS

HISTORICAL PAGEANT

On the afternoon of Wednesday, 24th February, 1954, in the Matamata Domain, the Matamata Dramatic Society, assisted by the Waharoa Maoris, the Tirau C. G. S. Drama Group, descendants of the original settlers, and the Caledonian Society, will re-enact some of the important events in the history of the Matamata district. The scenes will include a typical Maori village scene before the coming of the white man, early missionary enterprise, the meeting of Josiah Firth with Wiremu Tamihana over the land lease, the visit of Firth to the dying Tamihana, interviewing applicants for Matamata sections by the Land Board in 1904, the Ballot, the arrival of settlers and scenes typical of their life in the early days.

The scenes will be explained by a commentary over the public address system.

Mr. A. J. Young recounts the part chance played in his life in the early days. During a drought in Australia, he decided to come to New Zealand. Landing in Auckland in 1903 and knowing nothing about the country, he went to the Railway Station, saw the name Hamilton, and bought a ticket to that town. From there he was directed by Mr. Joseph Barugh, (a stranger to him) to the Matamata Estate. He had lodged most of his money with an Auckland Bank and decided to "carry his swag" to Matamata. Arrived in the district, he was told to look out for a man on a horse (Mr. J. W. Simpson as it turned out) — coming down Tower Hill at 9 a.m. who might be able to give him work. He met Mr. Simpson and was directed by him to Mr. Cranswick who arranged a place of meeting later in the day. When Mr. Young kept the appointment there was no sign of Mr. Cranswick and so he had just decided to walk on to Rotorua when he noticed a horse tied up. Mr. Cranswick was discovered having a cup of tea in a hostel nearby and Mr. Young was engaged for a ploughing job. Back in Auckland in 1904 Mr. Young, on the point of booking a passage to San Francisco, met a casual acquaintance outside the shipping office, and was told of a possible job at the gas works, went down, and was taken on. He later applied for a section in the ballot and was successful, his section being the first to be balloted.

LEGEND OF OUR COVER

LEFT CENTRE: Primary School.

TOP RIGHT: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth at Tirau.

TOP RIGHT CENTRE: Matamata Thoroughbred Entire, Count Rendered.

BOTTOM RIGHT CENTRE: Famous Okauia Hot Springs Bath.

BOTTOM: Part of Matamata Plains.

FOR ALL
BOYS' & MEN'S WEAR

A. G. FINDLATER

'PHONE 263
BROADWAY
MATAMATA

GOD GAVE ALL MEN ALL EARTH TO LOVE,
BUT, SINCE OUR HEARTS ARE SMALL,
ORDAINED FOR EACH ONE SPOT TO PROVE
BELOVED OVER ALL.

Those of the Matamata Plains have been given a lovely spot by God.
May it continue prosperous, peaceful, happy.

WISHING THE GOLDEN JUBILEE EVERY SUCCESS.

FRANK WILSON JOURNALIST TUI ST.
'PHONE 667

54-000 acres 41-000 sheep
500 cats 2600 cattle 184 horses

THE GOLDEN PLAINS 2000 acres oats (root)

Story of Matamata

The history of the Matamata Plains, and in a broad sense of the whole Waikato, falls into two great phases, before Firth and after. The story of this district prior to Firth's coming is dominated by two magnificent Maoris, first the strong Te Waharoa, and his son Wiremu Tamihana. Te Waharoa was one of the greatest warriors of a warrior race, but lived to become heartily sick of the incessant inter-tribal strife. With a wisdom uncommon to the time he begged the missionaries to come to his people. The picture of this shrewd chieftain is rounded off with the story of how he told the Rev. Brown (who brought the word to the district in 1833) that the chattels his people accepted for land were not good value. "These things will wear out, but my land will never wear out." Shades of Sophocles!

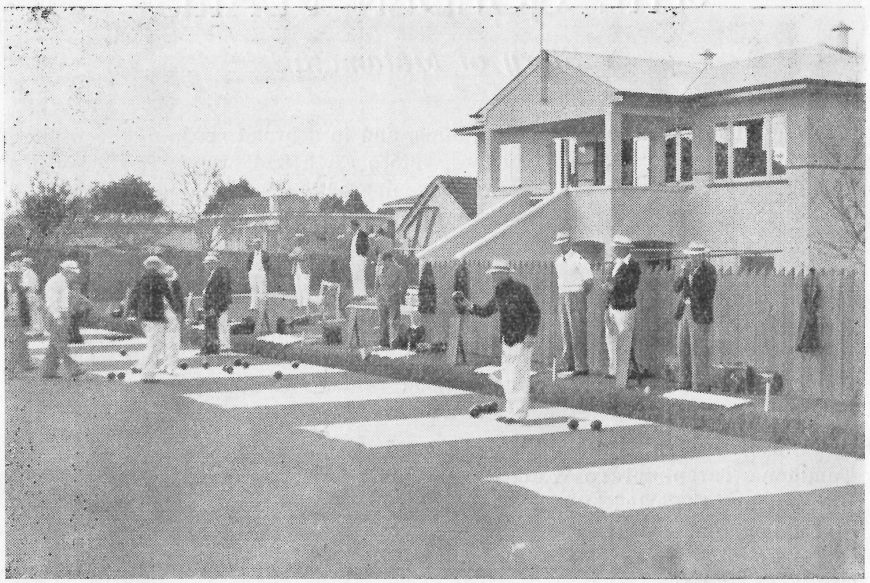
Hardly less great and historically more famous is his son Wiremu Tamihana Tarapipipi Te Waharoa. Tamihana tried to avert the Waikato war, but was thwarted by blockheads who considered brains the prerogative of England and dignity the property of the white race. He it was, who raised Potatau as the first Maori King. After the disastrous Waikato war, Tamihana met General Carey in 1865 at Tamahere and to the soldier's plea "Let this be for ever an end to our fighting" Tamihana replied, "I and my tribes will fight no more."

Tamihana was the man who sold the land to Josiah Firth, and between 1865 and 1884 Firth had acquired 56,000 acres. It is a pity that the splendid story of how Firth transferred the wilderness of scrub and swamp into farm and grazing lands cannot be told in full. When blocked from using the Waihou for conveyance he contructed a dray road to Cambridge, almost 30 miles. He drained land, cleared and straightened the Waihou, and in fact was truly a Nation Maker. His book Nation Making should be read in every school, for his is one of the great stories of early New Zealand.

After prodigious labour the Waihou was formally open for navigation in 1880. One rapid blown up took half a ton of dynamite. When Te Kooti terrorised the whole countryside Firth met him within a few miles of the present town of Matamata. Te Kooti was impressed by this man who came unarmed and unaccompanied, he did him no harm, listened to his blunt words which included the term "murderer" and harkened to his injunction to in future leave women and children alone.

About 1880 Firth harvested thousands of acres with machinery, 50 years ahead of general practice. He was a man born out of of his time. He planted fruit trees so that wayfarers could be refreshed. He practised what moderns call forest culture. He looked after his men, and though he lived in Auckland he spent much time at the estate as well as planning for it from the city. He foresaw the development of the dairy industry and made a settlement at Waharoa of smallholders. A modern dairy factory was built and designed by his son W. T. Firth.

When Firth, through no fault of his own, had to relinquish his estate he had milk condensing, canning, cider making and wine making in hand on a factory scale. The slump of the 1880's broke him and thousands of smaller



REWA BOWLING GREEN and NEW PAVILION

ARAWA STREET MATAMATA

men. Then as now men had learned to make the earth produce, but those who produced were as ever smashed by those who distributed. The people and the country were poor because they and it produced too much real wealth.

When Firth went past what is now the Waharoa aerodrome, just over twenty years after he had entered the area at the same spot, an era died. Te Waharoa, Tamihana, Firth, all at that moment in July, 1887, entered history.

One of Firth's best known and loved employees in John McCaw took over the estate for the government board which took the big holdings of the land barons. In 1904 the Lands Department acquired from the Assets Realisation Board 42,481 acres. It was surveyed and subdivided into 117 farms, varying in size from 47 acres to 984, in addition to small allotments in the township of Waharoa, suburban allotments of about ten acres and 153 quarter-acre sections in Matamata township. The ballot for allotments was held on June 2, 1904. John McCaw was given the "homestead" allotment of the Tower farm, and that historic old concrete structure still stands.

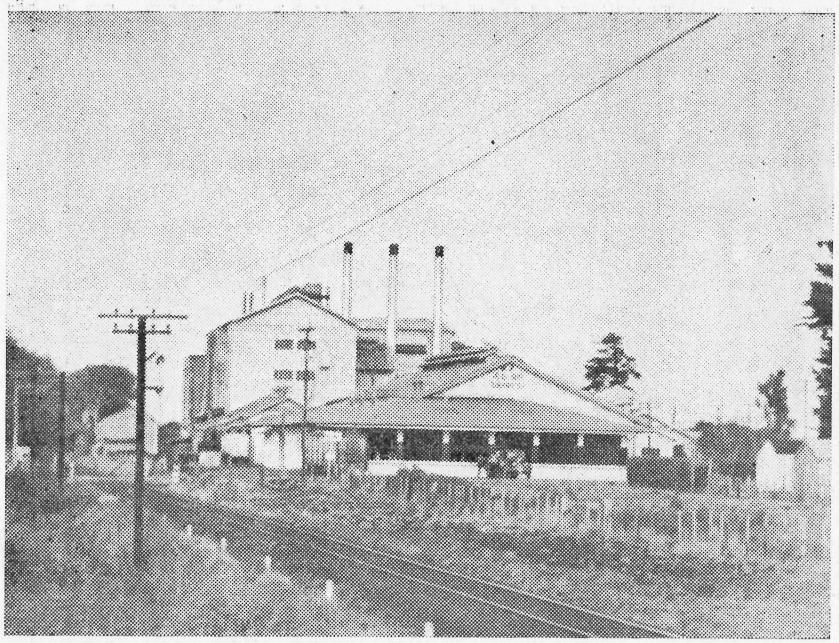
Later the Selwyn block was settled, the Mangapouri and Mangawhero blocks, while Karapiro, Okauia and Whitehall had been opened up from four to six years before the Matamata block. These areas overlap what our modern concept of the Matamata and Putaruru districts is, but roughly the the Selwyn block was the basis of the Okoroire district, and went into the Putaruru area.

The main settlements to the Matamata district were the first in 1904, the Selwyn in 1906 and the Mangawhero and Mangapouri in 1907. Many of the early pioneers still live in this district. Even in 1907 much of the Mangawhero land was infested with ragwort, an early headache for the district's farmers.

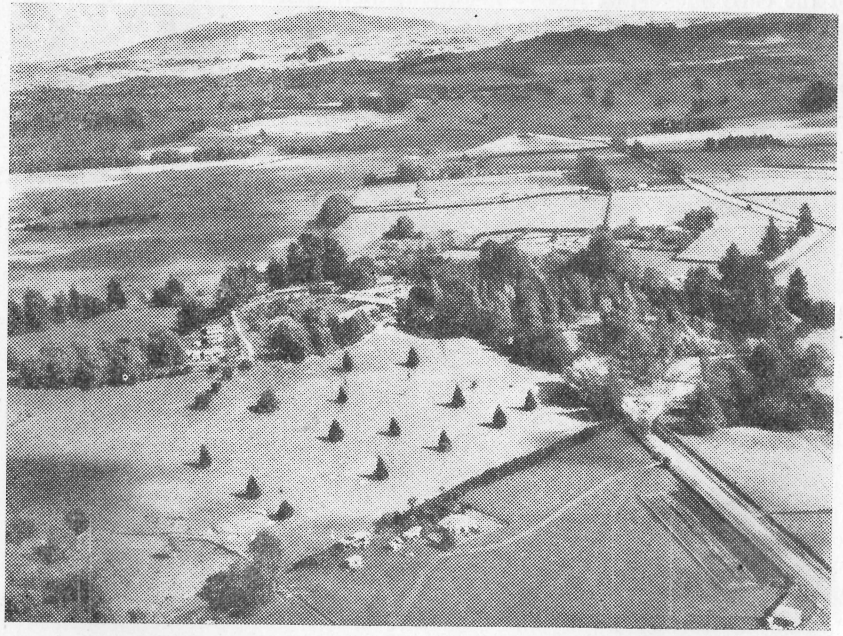
The early pioneers fought to improve their lands, for adequate roading, good transport and other facilities. Their story from this stage on is almost a contemporary one, and is told in all its facets in the brief history of many of the organisations in the district, on following pages.

The Matamata plains have some of the world's finest land. The dairying production is famous throughout the Empire. It is noted for its sheep, its honey, its thermal springs and the warm temperateness of its climate. Today to outsiders Matamata means cows, hot springs and thoroughbred horses. It is one of the most heavily populated rural areas in New Zealand, has a fine aerodrome at Waharoa to cater for future expansion, has miles of sealed roads, and the Matamata County Council was the one in all New Zealand to be honoured by acting as host to Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh.

This district now faces the future confident by virtue of what it has accomplished, not only in the past stretching to New Zealand's earliest history, but in the story of the last fifty years. We are celebrating the Golden Jubilee of the closer settlement of the Plains, the Golden Jubilee of the Golden Plains. May God accept our humble thanks for the blessings of the past and continued to watch over our spreading lands in the future. May He continue to bless these plains, keep them rich and flowering, and keep our hearts humble in the knowledge of what we owe to Him and to those who carved an Emipre out of scrub.



WAHAROA DAIRY FACTORY



AERIAL VIEW OF OKOROIRE

EDUCATION

MATAMATA PRIMARY SCHOOL

From humble beginnings grew Matamata's present educational facilities of which the district can justly be proud—Matamata College, the Primary School and St. Joseph's Convent. All have developed from that one small hall that was brought from the tower in 1900 and set up in the Police paddock to meet the needs of a growing population. After the building was burnt down in 1905, school was carried on in one room in a house where Salisbury Building now stands. It was in this building that Mr. H. J. Moore-Jones, the first headmaster of the school, began his work in Matamata, work which extended over a period of 21 years (1904-1925), and was broken only by the war years when he was overseas on active service.

In 1905 a new school, part of the present Primary building, opened as a sole charge school. A second room was added in 1909 and further additions followed through the years, bringing the number of rooms in the old block up to six. In addition there is an Infant Department, consisting of five rooms, three of which were built in 1938, the other two being added in 1951.

The school was raised to the status of a District High School in 1918 when the Secondary Department came into existence. It was first of all housed in the new Technical School which had been built the previous year, facing on to Meura Street, but later it occupied a room in the main building.

In 1924, the first step towards the present set-up came when two class rooms and a laboratory were opened on the site occupied by the College today.
Standard 4.

Mr. Moore-Jones was followed by Mr. A. F. McMurtrie, M.A., 1925-1926; Mr. J. F. Wells, B.A., 1926-1931; Mr. B. M. Kibblewhite, M.A., 1931-1936; and Mr. H. Fawcett, M.A., 1936-1945.

The opening of the Convent in 1930 was for a while a check to the growth of the Primary School. Later two country schools, Okauia and Peria were closed and the children transported by bus to Matamata.

A new era dawned in 1944 when the Secondary Department was raised to the status of a College and the Primary School became a separate entity. While Mr. Fawcett remained as Principal of the College, Mr. C. S. Caddie was appionted headmaster of the Primary School, a position he held until the end of 1950, when he was succeeded by Mr. G. S. Palmer, the present headmaster. Late in 1944, a Parent-Teacher Association was formed, an Association that has ever since played a very active part in Primary School affairs. The Matamata Rose Society assisted with the making of a very extensive improvements to the grounds during Mr. Caddie's term as headmaster.

The School's Golden Jubilee celebrations, to which old pupils came from all parts of the Dominion, were held during 1950. In 1952, extensive alterations were made to the old building. Central heating was installed throughout all rooms and inside reconstruction provided a new office for the headmaster and a larger staff room for the ever-increasing staff. During recent years very successful annual gala days have been run by the School Com-

mittee and the Parent-Teachers' Association. The funds raised were used to purchase valuable modern equipment for the school, including a new piano. At present the school has a roll of some 460 pupils housed in eleven rooms and controlled by a staff of thirteen teachers.

For the next 20 years the schools, although two separate units, remained under the one headmaster.

When consolidation took place in 1925 and standards 5 and 6 from neighbouring schools were transported to the new site, the Primary School became a decapitated school, catering only for the needs of children up to

MATAMATA COLLEGE

The Matamata district has reason to be deeply grateful to the vision and enterprise of a small band of pioneer settlers whose efforts were responsible for collecting the purchase money by a house-to-house canvass, and presenting to the Government debt free, approximately 15 acres of the present College site. In 1949 the adjoining block of equal size was acquired. The whole area, sown in grass and laid out in shelter trees, makes provision for spacious playing fields.

The history of secondary education in Matamata begins with the establishment in 1910 of a standard seven at the Primary School. It is interesting to note that the Mayor, Mr. E. T. Stanley, was a member of that class. In 1917 Mr. Sydney Malcolm, headmaster of the Primary School during Mr. Moore-Jones' absence overseas in World War I., canvassed the district for names of possible high school pupils, and owing to his efforts a secondary department was established in 1918, under Miss Jessie Taylor, appointed temporarily, and succeeded later in the year by Miss N. Ross in a permanent position. In 1924 the secondary department moved up to the present college site.

In 1925, largely owing to the efforts of the late Mr. E. C. Banks, Auckland Education Board member for this ward, the school was established in its present form—with a junior high school department (now called intermediate) attached, and serving the whole district by consolidation. Known for a few years as a Junior High school, in 1933 it reverted to the original name of District High school, until 1946, when owing to change of status it took on its present title of Matamata College.

The history of the school can be largely summed up in the work of its various headmasters. As a secondary department attached to, and housed in, the Primary School it was under Mr. Moore-Jones from 1918-1924. Mr. A. F. McMurtrie was appointed headmaster in 1925 of the three departments—Secondary and Junior High on the present site, and Primary about a mile away. It was his task to deal with consolidation and formulate a broader curriculum for both the Junior High and the Secondary departments.

In 1926 the late Mr. J. F. Wells succeeded as headmaster. With characteristic vigour he set to work to raise funds locally for essential equipment and grounds improvement. His keen oversight soon brought the reward of sports and scholastic success and laid the foundation of a deep pride in the school which is part of its tradition. He introduced the present school monogram in which the lighted torch symbolises the continuity of tradition and the motto "Pour Servir" enjoins iommunity service. The first athletic sports meeting was held in 1926, and the first School Magazine published that year.

Mr. B. M. Kibblewhite succeeded Mr. Wells in 1931. He continued the work of grounds improvement, introduced organised sport into the school curriculum, built up the sixth form courses and to make it possible for pupils to remain longer at school introduced in the senior classes the text book hire scheme, which has helped in the smoother running of courses and been of such material benefit to parents for so many years. Through the very difficult depression years, when the usual subsidies were curtailed, he had a genius for finding means of maintaining the school institutions. The swimmina sports were first held at the opal springs in 1932.

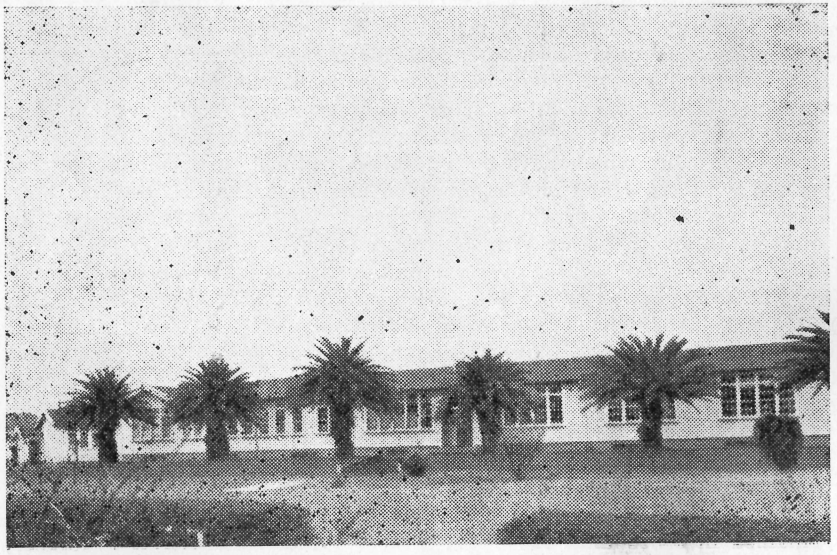
Mr. H. Fawcett followed as Principal in 1936. He seized on the spirit of educational optimism following the depression years to procure new buildings, equipment and extension to front grounds. He continued with the laying out and planting of grounds. New specialist departments, the intermediate block and the hall were important additions to buildings. His appeals to parents for financial support met with a very generous response. He extended the text book hire scheme to embrace the whole secondary department. The Primary School became a separate institution in 1944, and in 1946 the school was raised to post-primary status, when grants for equipment and maintenance became more generous. There was further specialisation of courses. During the war years Mr. Fawcett organised from the school farewells to old pupils going overseas, and the school kept in touch with them by despatching food parcels. The great pride he fostered in their achievements and sacrifice deepened and enrichen school tradition.

The present Principal, Mr. G. McB. Salt, was appointed when Mr. Fawcett retired in 1947. He has kept before him the educational requirements of a growing country town and district in the post-war world, which demands greater specialisation and efficiency and an attitude trained to meet the complex problems of modern life. Teaching has become more specialised, the courses more clearly defined, and their scope widened. Extra-curricular activities have been encouraged, and opportunity has been given for a greater number of pupils to take part in inter-school sporting fixtures. Further additions have been made to specialist building, much valuable equipment has been secured, and through the purchase of additional land the College now stands on 30 acres of ground, which have been levelled, drained, grassed and further planted with trees and shrubs, and the area round the school has been sealed. An appeal opened in 1951 raised the sum of over £1800 to commemorate in a fitting War Memorial the service and sacrifice of old pupils, of whom 347 served overseas and 49 fell on active service.

The College was under the jurisdiction of the Auckland Education Board until 1952, when it was for a short time under the South Auckland Commission, finally passing under the control of its own Board of Governors in October, 1953. While under Education Board control it was administered locally by the District High School Committee uuntil 1925, when a Junior High School Committee was set up. Mr. E. C. Banks became the first chairman; the late Rev. A. C. Hampton succeeded in 1932; and was followed in 1935 by the late Mr. A. M. A. Wright, a member of the Committee from its original provisional form, who remained in office until his death in 1949. Mr. G. L. Whyte succeeded, and he continues as chairman of the new Board of Governors. These men and their colleagues in office have brought goodwill, vision,

enthusiasm, experience and ability to the task of maintaining and improving the educational facilities of the College.

The College acknowledges a very deep debt of gratitude to those who have shaped the course of its history. Early settlers, principals, staff members, chairmen and their colleagues on committees of management, parents, old pupils and the pupils themselves have all played an important part in its growth and progress. In true pioneering spirit they have laid the foundations of an educational institution which will be called upon in the future, as in the past, to play a vital part in the development and progress of the Matamata District.



MATAMATA COLLEGE

PATRIOTIC EFFORT

Under the chairmanship of Mr. W. A. Gordon, the Matamata Centennial Committee was set up to organise the local centennial celebrations in 1940. This committee had representation on the Rotorua Zone of the Auckland Provincial Committee.

The committee built the Matamata Centennial Baths and planted many trees in the Domain Belt. Including Government subsidy, over £2000 was expended on this project.

Mr. J. Buchanan was elected to the office of Mayor before the baths were completed. The Hon. Minister of Internal Affairs, Mr. F. Doidge, under the chairmanship of Mr. Buchanan, opened the baths on completion.

WAR PERIOD

Soon after outbreak of war the Centennial organisation took over the Patriotic work and became the official Patriotic Authority, Matamata remaining a part of the Rotorua Zone.

Mr. Gordon was its first chairman and member of the Rotorua Zone during his term as Mayor. Mr. J. Buchanan held this appointment during his term.

Mr. A. E. Wrigley, the present chairman, has held office since 1942.

Associated with the Matamata Inter-Zone Committee during the war, were the District Committees, the Matamata and District Ladies' Committees, the Matamata and District Farewell Committee, the R.S.A., the Red Cross and W.W.S.A. During the war over £35,000 was collected, a regular quota of overseas parcels and garments despatched. A farewell gift was presented to all servicemen proceeding overseas from the Matamata district, and the 30th Battery was entertained while camped on the Matamata Racecourse.

Since the war, the Patriotic Committee has maintained its organisation at full strength, has operated as a Welfare Committee, and to 30/9/53, has spent £3676/18/1 in giving assistance to servicemen of both wars.

Other active war-time bodies included the Awake N.Z. Committee, the Physical Welfare organisation, the National Savings Committee, the Seaman's Entertainment Committee, and St. John Ambulance Association. It would take a full page to tell the story of each of the above.

The E.P.S. was organised in all its branches, first under the chairmanship of Mr. J. Buchanan, and later by Mr. A. E. Wrigley as chairman and Chief Warden.

The Home Guard was first formed in Matamata as a local Home Defence Unit long before the Home Guard was formed. It was later absorbed into the National Home Guard with Mr. W. Higginson as its commanding officer.

The Home Guard organised its transport and was located a defence area in the Kaimai. Also it had its own factory for the making of its own equipment prior to the receipt of Government issue.

Following is the list of statistics on the Matamata District War Effort:

New Zealand Casualties: Deaths, 10,130; missing, 634; prisoners, 8,086; wounded, 19,345.

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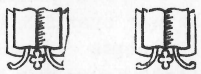

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BROADWAY — — MATAMATA

MATAMATA DISTRICT (approximately)

Killed or Missing on Service, 81; Men and Women who Served Overseas, 893; Men and Women who Served in New Zealand, 326; Men and Women who Served in the Home Guard, 950; Men and Women who Served in the Emergency Precautions Service, 600.

R.S.A. IN THE DISTRICT

The R.S.A. in Matamata is well organised and the President, Mr W. Higginson, is prominent in R.S.A. circles throughout New Zealand.

The Association takes an active part in all community activity. The present extensive club rooms in Arawa Street are being paid off now. The Association opened them over a year ago and they have proved a great boon to members. The secretary of Matamata District R.S.A. is Mr. A. M. Madill. No mention of the R.S.A. in the district is complete without referring to the great work done for years by Mr. G. G. Griffiths, well-known as Editor of the Matamata Record and former president.

MATAMATA DEFENCE RIFLE CLUB

On September 28th, 1932, a meeting was held in the "Record" office convened by Messrs. I. Wallace and H. A. King to form a Rifle Club. As a suitable Range had been formed on the property of Mr. W. Butler at Peria, Mrs. H. R. King and C. E. Barry moved that the "Matamata Defence Rifle Club" be formed.

First President: Mr. W. W. Livingtone.
Vice-Presidents: N. Wallace, W. Butler and K. Buchanan.
Secretary and Treasurer: Mr. G. G. Griffiths.
Range Custodian: Mr. F. Carter.
Auditor: Mr. F. Banks.

On the passing of Mr. Livingstone in 1934 Mr. G. G. Griffiths was chosen to occupy that position until he resigned in 1936. He was one of the main workers in the formation of the Club and through his energy and foresight Matamata has one of the finest ranges in the Auckland Province.

In 1936 Matamata was chosen as the Headquarters for the South Auckland Rifle Association and venue for their two day Easter Meeting. This has grown from 46 competitors to 101 in 1953.

The present President, Mr. W. M. Griffiths, was elected in 1936.

The Land Board were very favourably impressed with the type of settler applying for land at Matamata – "fine athletic looking young men." The Board discharged their duties with fairness and understanding. Mr. C. Payze was a month under age. After consultation, one of the Board said: "Let the young fellow have it," and the application went forward in the name of Mr. Payze's mother.

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COMMUNITY ART SERVICE

At a well attended meeting convened by Mr. Wrigley (then Mayor) in the Town Hall on October 22nd, 1946, a committee to be known as the Matamata Committee of the Community Arts Service of the Adult Education Department was set up with the object of fostering the cultural arts in the community. A representative of the Adult Education Centre addressed the meeting on the aims and objects of the C.A.S. and its relationship to Adult Education. The first committee comprised Mr. H. Fawcett (chairman), Mesdames R. Reid and J. Tier, Miss Bell, Messrs. J. Tier, Edgar Hall and M. Feist.

Drama: During the committee's existence approximately 20 plays have been presented by C.A.S. players to capacity audiences. These plays have been of high standard, both in acting and the type of play chosen.

Music: Many notable musicians have been brought to Matamata by C.A.S., and although not so well supported as the Drama Groups, they have, nevertheless, left their mark on the community and we have been the richer for our contact with them. Such artists as Piers Cortmore ('cello), Maurice Clair and Samuel Artis (violin), Lilli Kraus (piano), Clement Williams (baritone), Owen Jensen and many more, have added to our cultural education.

Art: Several art collections have been shown in Matamata and these had good support from those interested.

Local Activities: In May, 1948, a junior choir of 100 voices was formed and under the baton of Mr. Tom Cave and with Mr. Edwards as pianist, started practising. The choir gave several performances of high standard at C.A.S. functions. About this time, too, a Junior Orchestra of some 20 players commenced practices with Mrs. Edgar Bell as conductor. The orchestra reached a very high standard in the five years of its existence and gave much to the cultural activities of the town.

Finance: From the C.A.S. accumulated funds several cultural organisations in the town have been helped with donations.

On looking back over the activities of C.A.S. during the past seven years with its uphill fight and in spite of opposition, we find that it has prospered and many worthwhile performances have been enjoyed by quite a number of people. Much of the Society's progress has been due to the untiring efforts of the few who had faith and courage to bring this form of adult education to the public. Men such as Horace Fawcett, Edgar Hall, Don Scott, Stan Gardiner and Archie Crabb, together with the secretaries and committee members have all given of their best that C.A.S. might become a real part of our daily life.

CAMERA CLUB

The Camera Club was formed in May, 1952, at a meeting convened by Mr. W. Coates, Mr. W. I. Congalton was the first President and he was succeeded in 1953 by Mr. G. McB. Salt. Mrs. W. L. Hollis is the Secretary. Meetings are held monthly. Competitions are arranged on set subjects. By criticism of entries members help one another to improve their work. Half the time is devoted to movie and half to still photography.

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DRAMATIC SOCIETY

The Matamata Dramatic Society had its origin in the wartime organisation, the W.W.S.A., of which a small group of members formed a play reading circle in 1945, Miss M. McLaren being chairwoman. In April, 1946, a meeting was called by the late Mr. T. E. McMillan under the auspices of the Community Centre Committee, and the reading circle threw in its lot with the newly formed Dramatic Society, Miss E. V. Bell being elected President, and M. G. Brown Secretary. Two one-act plays were produced on the stage at the end of the year, when Mr. A. E. Wrigley offered a cup for an annual competition of one-act plays, and the annual Drama Festival was born. It ran for three nights in 1947 when Mrs. Lesbia Paine of Hamilton was the adjudicator, and has been held annually ever since, running for seven nights in 1953.

In 1950 Mr. W. Sharp offered a cup for the best play in the group, drama or comedy, not winning the Wrigley Cup, and Mrs. Pat McKenzie, adjudicator of the second Festival, a cup for the best produced New Zealand written play. In this year, "Mountain River", written by Miss Beryl Tinkler of Tirau, and presented by the Tirau C.G.S. Drama Group won both the Sharp and McKenzie Cups and went on to win the Cambridge Festival — a very fine achievement by a local playwright. In 1951 the late Mr. T. E. McMillan, Patron of the Society, presented the two cups given for the best man and woman performance of that year and since then these two awards have been called the McMillan Cups.

In the season the Society meets once a month in the Parish Hall for the reading of plays. These evenings attract good audiences and give valuable stage experience.

The Society now possesses much invaluable lighting and sound equipment, many properties, and a play library to which valuable additions are made each year. It is looking forward to the day when it will find a permanent home in the Community Centre.

Executive members of the Society are: E. V. Bell, J. H. Tompkins, W. J. Sharp, A. E. Wrigley, E. H. Fisher, N. Pond, K. Hopkins, P. S. Stone, W. Pelham, A. M. Madill, W. McLaren, N. Pond, C. Ramsay, J. Dewse, R. V. Anderson, R. Reid, P. S Stone, S. Price, J. Reason, D. Scott.

SCHOOLS' MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Schools' Music Festival began in 1952, through the enthusiasm of Miss M. McKinnon of the College staff, whose suggestion met with a very ready response from Mr. G. Palmer, Headmaster of the Matamata Primary School and the teachers of singing in the district schools.

Each school Choir provides special items and all Choirs unite in massed singing. The Festival is held in the Regent Theatre, which is filled to capacity, the demand for seats being much greater than the accommodation available.

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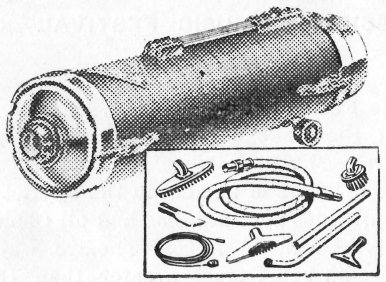

MATAMATA ART SOCIETY

The Matamata Arts Society was founded early in 1952 at a meeting convened by Mr. Jim Cotter. A very keen group began work on their own for a term; then, feeling the need of tuition, they invited Miss Ida Carey of Hamilton, to act as tutor and completed the year under her guidance. In 1953 they continued under Miss Carey, but as an Adult Education Group. The Society meets on Saturday afternoons. They work in oils and water colour and the course of study includes landscape, still life and portraiture. It is hoped in 1954 to have an Adult Education discussion group on contemporary art. Two members of the Society have exhibited in the Waikato Society of Arts — Mrs. Andreal in 1952 and Mrs. Cawker in 1953, and some have been accepted for membership of the Waikato Society of Arts. The Matamata Society is a very keen one with a membership of about twenty. It is hoped that an exhibition of their work may be held in the near future.

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

At a meeting called in August, 1944, an enthusiastic gathering decided to take immediate steps to establish a library. Mr. H. Schofield was elected Chairman, and the late Mrs. R. Hoby Secretary. The library opened the following year with 1100 books purchased from a local library, and 250 volumes from the Country Library Service, and was accommodated in the old Council Room, which was repaired and painted by enthusiastic helpers. Mrs. A. C. Schioler was appointed Librarian, a position she has now held for nine years, during which time she has given outstanding service.

There are now over 6000 books. The present building was built with voluntary labour by the Jaycees, as a temporary library. It will soon have to be re-housed.

The Library owes a great deal to Mr. A. E. Wrigley, Chairman 1948-52. He was Mayor of Matamata at its foundation and his sound judgment and experience of public affairs have made him a wise counsellor and guide.

MATAMATA CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

Mr. W. L. Pirie called the first meeting of the Caledonian Society in January, 1930. The first officers were: Patron, Mr. H. Sutherland, Senior; Chief, Mr. F. Banks; Chieftains, Messrs. A. Findlater and McKenzie Scott; Secretary, Mr. G. G. Griffiths; Treasurer, Mr. W. Emslie. Interested residents were Messrs. D. Waterson, T. McLeay, A. Gibson, J. Allison, W. Gilchrist, S. Stanley, T. Stanley, W. McDonald, G. May, D. McIsaac, and Misses Bremner and G. Laird. At a later meeting Rev. A. C. Hampton, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Menzies, Mr. and Mrs. Rowe were elected members. At the first annual meeting the membership stood at 69. The main office holders since 1930 have been: Chiefs, Mr. W. John (1932-46), Mr. W. Peddie (1946 to present); Secretaries, Mr. D. McIsaac (1931-34), Mr. W. S. Wilson (1934-53), Mr. G. Desmond (1953).

The first social took the form of a Burns Night, there being visitors from the surrounding districts and as far away as Auckland.

The Caledonian Society keeps alive the Scottish traditions and does much for the community as a whole.

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HIGHLAND PIPE BAND

The Highland Pipe Band came into existence in December, 1946. For twelve months previous to this, Mr. D. McIsaac had been coaching Messrs. C. C. Simpson, D. Benge and D. Sutherland to play the pipes. The Caledonian Society made a donation and organised a district collection to purchase uniforms and equipment, the new band being at first under their control. Mr. R. Fullerton, the first Pipe-Major, trained the pipers and Mr. McLachlan the drummers. Mr. D. Benge has been Drum-Major from the beginning. The Band was at first under the Caledonian Chief, Mr. W. Emslie being the first Secretary-Treasurer, to be followed later by Mr. J. Foggo. When the Band became a separate organisation, Mr. E. J. Benge became Patron, Mr. H. Sutherland President, Messrs. J. Gardiner and D. McIsaac Vice-Presidents, Mr. H. Martin Secretary, followed later by Mr. K. Newman.

The Band will shortly become an incorporated society and will have a strength of ten pipers and eight drummers. In the Cambridge C Grade Contest, 1952, the Band won the quickstep event and D. Benge the Drum-Major Medal.

MATAMATA MALE CHOIR

The Matamata Male Choir was formed late in 1951 as the result of a suggestion made by Mr. Wilbert Marks.

Mr. T. Cave was appointed Conductor and has continued as such during the succeeding two years.

Several of the initial members left for various reasons — mostly due to transfer to other districts.

Mr. Edgar Hall, who met his death under tragic circumstances, was a real loss to the Choir.

The present membership is 17 — and over the past two years the Choir has performed at over 20 functions of various kinds.

Practice is held each Tuesday evening, at Mr. Cave's resident, Peria Road.

The present personnel is as follows: 2nd Bass, Messrs. W. Marks, E. T. Williams, T. Dover, R. Hemmings; 1st Bass, P. Cave, V. Anderson, J. M. Blight, R. Vermeulin; 2nd Tenor, W. Weston, J. Vosper, H. Emery, E. Houston, R. J. Adams; 1st Tenor, H. McKenzie, E. Goodwin, H. Tappin. There are vacancies for those interested. Conductor: T. Cave. Pianiste: Mrs. D. Benge.

ORPHANS' CLUB

The Matamata Orphans' Club was revived in 1935 at a meeting called by Mr. W. Banks, Mr. Sorrenson, Mr. J. Barlow, and others.

The aim of the Orphans is to cultivate good fellowship and entertain one another by music, song and story. There is an orchestra of about twelve instruments, Mr. E. Bygrave being the conductor. Six ordinary meetings and two Ladies' Nights are held during the year.

The present membership is limited to 108 members with an extensive waiting list. A feature of Orphandom is the regular interchange of visits among kindred clubs of the North Island, the Matamata members being particularly keen on visiting. In 1954 a visit is planned to the Stratford Savage Club, to return a "mass raid" of over 60 in July, 1953.

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HOW Mr. FIRTH OBTAINED MATAMATA

A mob of 300 head of cattle bought by Mr. Firth at Napier were slaughtered by the Ngatihauas at Kimi in the Patatere Ranges, on their way to Matamata. When Mr. Firth was paying the Maoris his annual rental of £400 he presented his bill for £500 for the cattle. Every year a calf was added to each cow and the bill increased accordingly until it reached £1500. Mr. Firth said the claim would be handed down to his descendents until in the end "like Pharoah's lean kind" the original cows would devour all their lands. The Maoris became uneasy and decided to settle. Mr. Firth agreed to keep back one year's rent, but that year the food crop failed, and on receiving a message in Auckland Mr. Firth went down to Matamata and paid the £400 rent, considering the matter settled. Actions such as this explain Mr. Firth's influence with the Maoris. In spite of troubled times after this, they neither stole nor harmed anything in the estate.

Notes on Early Settlers

At the time of the Matamata settlement there were many who had no faith in the land here. Some of those who were successful in the ballot withdrew without taking possession, their sections passing to others who had no reason to regret their good fortune. The late Mr. G. J. Duxfield, one of the 1904 settlers, said when he first saw the fern growing here in such profusion: "Land which will grow fern like this must be good farm land." His faith was amply justified in the years which followed.

Mr. and Mrs. G. J. Duxfield had ten children at the time of the settlement. This was the largest family included in the first group of settlers. Four more children were born later in Matamata.

Mr. George Duxfield, under twelve years of age at the time, brought the stock down by rail on his own and drove them on to the new farm. A few days later he had the unenviable experience of falling down a well covered by flood water in which he was paddling. After sinking for some time he rose to the surface and struggled out unaided.

Mr. Sid Gunn, a 1904 settler, remembers that his first year's income in Matamata was £97. A fat lamb was worth 10/- and a fat pig 30/-.

He recalls the glum faces at the factory one morning. Everyone's test was down mysteriously 10 points. When the factory manager, Mr. J. Steen, made an announcement for the stand, "April 1st, boys!" the gloom lifted.

The mill race of the early mission station ran on the boundary of Mr. Gunn's farm. The mill wheel was still there in 1904. Mr. Gunn recalls finding the mission bell and giving it to the Waharoa Maoris.

TIRAU DOMAIN

The Tirau Domain was, in 1946, an area of land ½ mile south of the township. Not level, in fact not much use, until a Public meeting was called by a few civic minded people who decided to do something for their grand little community. As the scheme progressed the community did something for themselves, and the result is one of the finest multiple sports areas in the Waikato. A monument for those few that started the ball rolling and a credit to the township that proved the old adage "many hands make light work!"

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ARAWA STREET - - MATAMATA

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Every township, when it becomes established as a business community, finds it necessary to form an association of business men through whose combined efforts assistance can be given to the progress of the town.

A Chamber of Commerce was in existence before 1920, but was re-formed under the presidency of Mr. B. C. Taylor with Mr. F. H. Salter as secretary. The first council consisted of Messrs. I. Black, J. Cummings, T. R. Davies, H. A. Smith and W. C. Coote. The Chamber has existed continuously since 1924 to the present time and has taken an active part in Matamata affairs. Mr. Taylor held the presidency until 1930 and was succeeded by Mr. H. E. Schofield who held the office for fifteen years. He was succeeded in 1945 by Mr. W. Sharp and successive presidents were then Messrs. W. Hollis, K. N. Gouk, K. S. Gorrie and H. E. Schofield. A perusal of the minutes shows that many items of interest and importance were dealt with by the Chamber and among them may be instanced the following:—Lengthening of the railway station platform; installation and extension of town lighting; monthly sittings of the Court; railway crossing warning signals; erection of telephone box; improvement to the Kaimai Road.

The Chamber has from its inception been a member of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of New Zealand, and Mr. H. E. Schofield was in 1950 elected to the position of National President, this being the first time that a country Chamber had received this distinction.

While the work done by Chambers of Commerce is not usually spectacular, there is always a very close scrutiny made of the town requirements and conditions and no opportunity is ever lost of taking steps to point out where improvements can be effected. The Matamata Chamber, throughout its history, has always done its best to uphold the tradition of Chamber of Commerce work and to further the interests of the town itself.

MATAMATA BUSINESSMEN'S ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

A relatively young organisation, the Matamata Businessmen's Association was formed in 1940 for the main purpose of exchanging among the businessmen of Matamata information and ideas relating to local business.

After its formation, one of the first matters to claim attention of the Association was the problem of price control. Due to an ever increasing number of regulations and orders fixing prices, the task of the shopkeeper in complying with the different orders was a difficult one. The Association relieved the position and played its part by acting as liaison officer between the business people and the controlling authorities and the Government. Other topics dealt with included local credit, discounts and fixation and observance of holidays and closing hours.

Perhaps the most important function which the association fulfils is the maintenance and control of a nightwatchman service. The association has been fortunate in the selection of nightwatchmen; both the late Mr. Ritchie and the present nightwatchman, Mr. R. J. Bennison, giving excellent service.

The first president was Mr. A. G. Findlater and our present president is Mr. A. C. Ashby. Other presidents have been Messrs. R. Bennett, R. White, R. English, F. Hall and K. Hopkins.

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ST. JOHN AMBULANCE

The Matamata branch of the St. John Ambulance Association was formed at a Public meeting held in the Town Hall in April, 1930. The late Mr. John Buchanan presided. The late Rev. A. C. Hampton was elected President and the late Mrs. C. Blackburn was elected Secretary. The First Aid Classes were started immediately, with Drs. Laurenson and Palmer acting as lecturers.

On the 3rd February, 1931, a call was made for assistance in helping the injured in the Napier Earthquake. Five of the Matamata Brigade were among the first to arrive at the scene of the tragedy.

In 1942 the sudden death of Superintendent Allan Clark was a big loss to the Brigade. His place was taken by Mr. C. C. Brown of Hinuera, who at the time of writing is still the Brigade Superintendent. He has been a member of the Brigade since 1931.

In 1931 the Nursing Division was formed with Mrs. L. O. Mason as Superintendent. She has been a tower of strength.

In 1944 the Cadet Brigade was started by Mr. J. Nicholls. When he left the District in 1948 the position of Cadet Superintendent was taken over by Mr. R. Young.

In 1945, Mrs. J. Nicholls started a Girls' Nursing Cadet Division. Mrs. Nicholls left the District in 1949. Her place was taken by Miss Dorothy Mason and subsequently by Miss Norma Jordan.

After the retirement of the late Rev. Hampton, Mr. A. E. Wrigley became President of the Association. He held this position until 20th March, 1945, when the present President, Mr. R. S. Harris, took over the position.

The two highlights in Mr. Harris' term were the procuring of an Ambulance and the erection of the St. John Ambulance Hall. Approximately 7000 miles a year has been run by the Ambulance, while the new Hall has proved invaluable for the training of our divisions. Due to the inauguration of the Free Ambulance Scheme this year, a paid driver, Mr R. Nobilo, is now employed.

Mr. Harris is also the President of the St. John Ambulance Association, South Auckland Centre. He has held this position for four years. A further honour has come to the Matamata District in that the Central Office has been transferred to Matamata, the Secretary being Mr. W. J. Smeaton.

HISTORY OF MATAMATA ROSE SOCIETY

A Public Meeting was held in the Primary School grounds in the year of 1948 with a view to forming a branch of the National Rose Society in Matamata. The inaugural President was Mr. C. S. Caddie, and Secretary Mrs. R. Musker. Mr. J. Gardiner took office as President in 1949 and remained in that office until 1951, when Mr. L. De Renzy was elected President. Mr. W. J. Wallis became Secretary in that same year, but left the district at the end of the year when Mrs. R. Musker again resumed office as Secretary. Mr. J. Gardiner was re-elected President in April of 1952, and is the present presiding officer.

Two areas — one at the Infants' School and the other in the Domain — are now planted with 1000 roses of many varieties. The main object of a Rose Society is to inculcate in the minds of people a love of roses, and the success of this object is evident in Matamata.

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WHEN IN TOWN YOUR LUNCH.

MATAMATA HOTEL

Soup, Vegetable Broth, Entrees, Braised Rump Steak, Aux Legumes, Breaded Sweet Breads and Tomatoes, Grills, Rump Steak and Onions, Loin Chops, Mixed Grill, Cold Colation, Roast Beef, Roast Lamb, Roast Pork, Salads, Lettuce, Beetroot, Potatoes Sauted Mashed. Sweets, Steamed Sultana Roll, Apricot Sponge, Jelly and Blancmange, Biscuits and Cheese.

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ITS ACTIVITIES ARE DIRECTED PREDOMINANTLY AT THE BETTERMENT OF COMMUNITY LIFE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THOSE ATTRIBUTES WHICH ARE THE REQUISITE OF GOOD CITIZENSHIP.

Affiliated to N.Z. Junior Chambers of Commerce.

SCOUTING IN MATAMATA

Scouting has been a live and worthwile organisation in Matamata for over 33 years. In 1920 the Rev. W. Connelly laid the foundation stone of Scouting in Matamata on a very sound basis and the high standard set by him has been maintained to the present day.

Mr. Southern, County Commissioner for many years, took a keen interest in the Matamata Troop and made possible many overseas trips for many of the Troop members. Over the years the Troop has been represented at Jamborees in England, Europe, Australia and Fiji.

The Matamata Troop own their own Scout Hall in Broadway, and also a section in the industrial centre of the Borough.

The Matamata Troop has always been fortunate in having able officers in control with the result that the boys are well trained in Scoutcraft and Citizenship.

The Rovers experienced many ups and downs, but during the early years of the war were at their best, no less than 22 passed for overseas service.

The Cubs are a lively and happy section of Scouting. Mrs. Mackereth earns special mention for her work with the Cubs over many years.

Some names that should be mentioned for their support are the late Mr. Simpson, secretary for many years, Messrs. Bowler Bros., who donated a large sum of money towards the additions to the hall, Mr. Ellery who has been a committeeman for over 33 years, Mr. and Mrs. Blackburn, who took a keen interest in the Band, and Mr. Tenant, who assisted Mr. Southern during the War and is still an active committeeman.

Mr. Thirlwall as chairman of the Group Committee, did much to strengthen the Troop finances and encourage the expansion of Scouting in the District.

Other past chairmen include Mr. T. Stanley, present Mayor of Matamata, and Mr. A. Wrigley and Mr. W. Weston, who are both at present giving valuable service to the movement as chairman and secretary of the Matamata District Local Association.

Mention must also be made of Mr. H. Kneebone, who carried the burden of District Commissioner for some years and Mrs. Kneebone, who is at present District Cubmaster. At the present time Mr. Duxfield is chairman of the committee, Mr. Street secretary, Mr. Mac. Simpson Scoutmaster, Mr. A. C. Wrigley and Mr. Bob Young assistants, and Mr. J. Toomey and Mr. Kneebone Cubmasters.

MANGAWHERO ESTATE — TAIHOA

Mangawhero Settlement opened March 17th, 1907, with 17 settlers. In 1911 a Hall was built for a School which was opened that year. The next thing needed was a Post Office, so we applied for a Post Office in 1912. The Government would give us a Post Office, but it had to have a Maori name and meaning. Several names and meanings were sent in but on account of there being other Post Offices in other parts of the same name we could not have what we chose, so after a lot of delay we eventually sent in Taihoa (Wait and See, or Wait a Bit). Needless to say we got it and it has stuck to it ever since. As one of the chief applicants for the P.O. and doing the leading business, I really named the place "Taihoa."—W. S. Wilson.

IT'S OVER TO YOU - - - - - - - - - - -

It's good to celebrate, look back and wonder at the foresight and industry of our earliest town planners. It's good also to look to the future and to plan for the new days.

It takes vision and imagination to keep abreast of the times in the fast-changing Automotive World, but we are employing these gifts realistically to give Ever-increasing Service at

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your choice from a widely varied
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Steak and Eggs, etc.

SERVICE WITH A SMILE.
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MATAMATA ROTARY CLUB HISTORY

The inaugural meeting was held in the Matamata R.S.A. Rooms on the 9th April, 1947, when a Provisional Rotary Club was formed. Blair Tennent, District Governor of the 39th District, presided over an attendance of 18 provisional members sponsored by the Rotary Club of Te Aroha. Boundaries of the club were defined and the first officers appointed were: A. G. Findlater, President; H. E. Schofield, Vice-President; J. G. Somerfield, Secretary. At this meeting the provisional members agreed to abide by the rules of Rotary International. The Charter meeting was held in the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Hall on 14th June, 1947, when District Governor Blair Tennent presented the Charter No. 6622 to the Club. Thirteen Rotary Clubs attended to assist in the ceremony of successfully launching a Rotary Club in Matamata. Succeeding Presidents have been: Messrs. H. E. Schofield, W. J. G. Sharp, W. H. Hollis, K. N. Gouk, H. G. Keeley and W. Marks.

By close co-operation with Rotary principles the club consists of a cross section of the business and professional community under a classification principle united in Club service, community service, vocational service, and endeavours to foster international understanding and goodwill. Rotarians are pledged to encourage and foster high ethical standards in business and professions and are expected to assist in all matters pertaining to Public Welfare. The Rotary Club of Matamata built the children's playground, erected a drinking fountain in Broadway and has assisted many deserving causes. In 1948 Matamata sponsored the formation of a Club at Putaruru and since then the Rotary Club of Putaruru has successfully functioned as a vital link in the world-wide chain of Rotary.

An ideal of Rotary is that the "Four Way Test" be applied and adopted throughout the world. The simple questions of the "Four Way Test" are 1. Is it the Truth? 2. Is it fair to all concerned? 3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships? 4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned? There are nearly 8000 Rotary Clubs throughout the world with a total membership of 375,000, and Matamata is thus closely linked with this world-wide organisation whose ideals are based on "Service."

MATAMATA JAYCEE INCORPORATED

The Matamata Jaycee Incorporated is one of 48 similar bodies operating throughout New Zealand. Its activities are directed predominently at the betterment of community life and at the development of those attributes which are the requisite to good citizenship.

The Local organisation held its inaugural meeting in Matamata on the 14th of July, 1947. This meeting was convened as a result of the efforts of Ray Annan who was instrumental in stimulating interest in the Jaycee movement. At this meeting a good cross-section of the community was addressed by leading representatives of Jaycee from Auckland and Hamilton.

On the 23rd of July, 1947, the following members were elected to the Board: Bert Street, Sam Price, Alf Hawkins, Reg. Larkin, Gordon Woodroofe, John Lee, Arthur Burke, Maynard Miles, Arthur Ryan, Claude Knight, Lyle Brewer, Wally Pelham, and from their midst selected John Lee as President for the ensuing year. Under John's leadership many teething problems were overcome and much was learnt in the hard school of experience.

KEN GOUK'S SERVICE STATION

PAYS TRIBUTE TO THE EARLY SETTLERS OF OUR DISTRICT
AND JOINS IN THE WISH THAT THEY MAY HAVE MANY HAPPY MEMORIES OF THE GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS.

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ENTIRELY MATAMATA OWNED,
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ALL ACCESSORIES—

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'PHONE 425 FOR SERVICE.

Projects are the life blood of the organisation and Matamata Jaycees have been able to add much to the town through this medium. Some of the major projects completed are the erection of the Direction Boards at the three main entrances to our town, the building of the Public Library, the making and stencilling of 182 steet signs, the organising and conducting of the Miss Matamata Quest which raised £232 for the War Memorial Fund, and many other money raising and manual projects.

The Matamata Jaycees now have an active membership of 36 members who continue to carry out their creed of SERVICE, FELLOWSHIP, ACTION and EDUCATION.

MATAMATA VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

There were several disastrous fires in the early days of Matamata. In 1923 a block of five shops and a house in Broadway were razed. The outcry led to the formation of the Volunteer Brigade with Messrs. G. Peter Stewart, Wilkinson and Pulling the first serving members and office bearer. Firemen were Messrs. S. Stockdale, A. Turtle, B. Albert, L. Harvey, D. Bartett, K. Yanko, C. C. Vincent, F. Hill, A. McKenna, M. McKenna, A. "Scotty" Thornton. First station was a lean-to in Hetana St. which housed a motor and some equipment. When the old pound in Peria Rd. was dispensed with, the Minister of Lands invested it in the Town Board as a site for a station. This was built with voluntary labour by the brigade and was handed over free of debt to the Town Board in 1933. The new fire engine was bought in 1936 and members paid for extra work on it themselves to make it fully modern. The siren was fitted in 1943 largely with the proceeds of a shoot organised by the Matamata Gun Club.

During the War the Brigade saw 11 members serve in the forces, out of a total of 18. The Brigade was given a trailer pump to help it cover nearby dairy factories. The Brigade has competed successfully throughout N.Z. No fewer than three of its members have been Chairmen of the Auckland District Assoc., the largest sub-association in N.Z. There are five Gold Star (25 year) holders — Late Fireman H. C. Chilton, Ex Supt. G. Stewart, Ex Sec. C. C. Vincent, Ex Dep. Chief J. J. Henderson, Station Officer R. J. K. White, while Fireman Thornton receives his this year and Ralph Vincent has 22 years to his credit.

The Brigade have enlarged the station and have many amenities. Total service of members serving totals 239 years. Present Officers are: Chief F. O. R. Vincent; Deputy, R. A. Hawes; Station Officer, R. K. White; Sub-Officer, A. J. McLeay; Sec., I. C. Bush; Treas., D. W. White. The Brigade's motto is "We Strive To Save."

WAHAROA DOMAIN

Waharoa Domain is a very fine area that can be developed at a not too great cost if sufficient money and enthusiasm is at hand. A Bowling rink has been well laid out by local contractors, and should be opened early this year. Later, Tennis and Basketball courts are to be laid down, and a ground levelled to accommodate Football, Cricket and Athletics of all type, giving the growing township of Waharoa a sports area equal at the least of that at Tirau.

WATCH ! ! !

THE

MATAMATA RECORD

FOR

FURTHER PROGRESS

The Matamata Record was first published as a weekly in 1917.

After a few years it developed into a bi-weekly of eight pages.

The Record was the First Newspaper published in the Matamata County

THIRTY-SEVEN YEARS AGO.

It has recorded every step of progress in Matamata County and Borough during those years.

The Proprietors have been ratepayers of the town area for 35 years.

Various Editors of the Record have entered fully into the life of Town and County. They have left their mark—Yardley, McMillan, Griffiths.

The new Management will march with the times also.

All that is needed is the continued support of the many readers, advertisers and secretaries.

If it is real local news you want, you'll get it in the Record, twice weekly.

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MATAMATA CITIZENS BAND

One day early in November, 1935, Mr. Roy White called on Mr. W. Marks and suggested that he should attempt to form a Brass Band at Matamata. They there and then decided to call a meeting of interested persons which was held on November 20th. They gathered up the remnants of the old Scout Band consisting of Roy White, Les Radford and Merve Ellery and a few lads who had some experience with other bands — the balance they had to teach. Twelve old instruments and a box of music from the Trustees of the defunct Walton Band were bought for £30 (they were worth at least £60), cleaned and polished. The Borough Council were asked for financial assistance and gave a loan of £30. The late Mr. Gordon said that from his experience these country bands usually didn't last for long. Mr. Marks then promised that he would not sever his connection with the band until such time as they were in a strong financial position. The Band is still going strong after 18 years and has never been in debt. They now have their own Band Hall.

The first play out was on a Monday night at the Crystal Springs and the members who were mostly youths were very delighted with themselves. Since then the Band has done yeoman service for the Matamata district and has fully justified its existence. After combining with the Fire Brigade in staging a Queen Carnival the Band purchased new Instruments at a cost of £240. Since then other Instruments have been purchased from time to time. The Band has attended various contests showing a good record throughout.

At the Thames Contest in 1938 they gained 1st place in the Marching, 2nd place in the Test Selection and 4th place in the Hymn and the Boosey Shield for the highest aggregate Points in the C Grade. At later Contests the Band was always in the running and again annexed 1st for marching and 2nd in the Selection Test at Hamilton in August in 1947. Some outstanding players have been turned out and are scattered over New Zealand. Notable amongst them being Jack Clague who became the Champion Trombone player of New Zealand and Mr. Eric Bygrave, who is the present Conductor, won the Cornet Championship of the Waikato in 1947.

The Band became a Registered Incorporated Society in 1942 and all assets were vested in the Borough Council. Mr. Wilbert Marks, the first Conductor, relinquished that position about a year ago after thirteen years voluntary service. Mr. Peter Stewart was the first President and was followed by Mr. S. Ellery, who held the position for many years. Mr. W. Marks is now President.

The early settlers endured many hardships before they were established. One of them recalls seing Mrs. B. Garland cooking in front of the kitchen range — with an umbrella up.

The Tower farm house of nine rooms was built for £450.

The Right Honourable Richard John Seddon opened the Lower farm to Mr. John McCaw in 1904. Mr. McCaw refused, saying that he would prefer to apply through the Land Board in open competition. All applicants had to produce a balance sheet showing how they would work the farm, and have a capital of at least £2000. Of nine applicants Mr. McCaw was deemed by the Board to be the only one who had all the requirements and the Land Board decision met with very wide approval.

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WASHING MACHINES (Compacta 27in, Complete Home Laundry, also Scott and Ada).

REFRIGERATORS (Frigidaire and Westco).

SEWING MACHINES (Bernina, "Zig Zag" and B.S.M.).

CEILING LIGHTS & WALL BRACKETS (complete range).

ARAWA STREET — — MATAMATA

'PHONE 18 K.

FEDERATED FARMERS

The Matamata Sub Province of Federated Farmers is comprised of four branches, Te Poi, Hinuera, Matamata and Waharoa, with a total financial membership of 506. This is an entirely voluntary organisation of farmers

The history of the movement goes back to 1905 when the Matamata branch of the Auckland Farmers' Union was formed under the worthy chairmanship of Mr. Allan Fowler, with Mr. Sid. Gunn as Secretary. That organisation served the farmers well until 1945, when, consequent upon a movement to merge several farmers' organisations, such as Farmers' Union, Sheep Owners' Federation, Dairy Producers' Association, etc., into one federation, farmers in the Matamata district joined with many who at that stage favoured the setting up of a new Provincial Office of Federated Farmers at Hamilton, known as Waikato Province, Federated Farmers, N.Z. Incorporated. Thus another milestone of progress of farmers' organisation was passed and the Matamata Sub-province, Fed. Farmers, which at that time included the Putaruru, Tokoroa district, came into being under the capable chairmanship of Mr. W. Oates.

The local Sub Provincial Executive, which meets monthly, consists of delegates from each of the four branches and as would be expected, the business is much and varied. Provision is made so that business pertaining to a separate class of farming, i.e. Dairying or Meat, Wool Farming, can be decided entirely by farmers belonging to that class if desired.

The Sub Province has a representative on the Waikato Dairy Section Executive and the Waikato Meat & Wool Executive and it is a matter for congratulation to Matamata farmers that both these section representatives to Waikato Province have further represented the Waikato at Dominion level on the N.Z. Dairy Section Council and the Electoral College of the N.Z. Meat Board respectively.

While the first objective of Federated Farmers is to protect the legitimate interests of the farmers, the organisation recognises its responsibilities for the well-being of the district as a whole. On a local basis they adopt the attitude that town and country must advance together hand in hand, and on a national basis, that by adopting a policy that is fair to all sections of the community will the farmer most likely secure justice to himself and prosperity to all.

MATAMATA A. & P. ASSOC.

A public meeting was convened by Mr. J. Phelan and the late J. M. Dodd for the purpose of forming an A. & P. Assn.

This meeting was held on January 7th, 1911, when it was decided to form an A. & P. Association and the following Officers were elected:

Patron, Mr W. H. Herries, M.P. President, Mr J. McCaw. Vice-Presidents, Messrs. A. J. Tong, R. Butler, R. Burke (senior), S. Bellamy, B. Montague. Committee, Messrs. W. S. Wilson, P. Quinlan, W. F. Harding, A. J. Young, E. C. Banks, J. Tims, J. W. Garland, L. B. Warren, W. Egan, N. Browne, G. Ring, C. Wilson, S. Gunn, A. Bowler, E. Bowler, B. Garland, I McNair, J. Steen, W. Gale, C. Fleming, W. Cleary, J. Tyson, J. J. Campbell, W. McLean, J. M. Dodd, C. G. Payze. Secretary & Treasurer, J. Pohlen. Auditor, H. J. Moore-Jones.

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BROADWAY — — MATAMATA

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In 1942-43-44 the Show was abandoned owing to war conditions. A Gymkhana was held in 1944 which raised £124/15/- which was transferred to the Patriotic fund.

MATAMATA JERSEY CLUB

Mr. J. F. Vosper was one of the first to bring Pedigree Jerseys to the District about 1912 and in August, 1927, he convened a meeting of eight or nine enthusiasts and Mr. J. F. Vosper was elected President and Mr. McCormack Secretary of the newly formed Matamata Jersey Club. These carried on for three years, when Mr. J. F. Vosper resigned and Mr. M. Shaw was elected President and Mr. H. Lewis Secretary. In 1926 Mr. M. Shaw left the District and Mr. H. Lewis was elected President with Mr. R. K. Garland as Secretary. In July, 1929, Mr. R. K. Garland handed in his resignation as Secretary and Mr. M. E. Gould was elected Secretary. In July, 1952, owing to ill health, Mr. H. Lewis resigned as President, having served 26 years as President and two years as Secretary, and Mr C. Hazelton was elected President.

In 1912 there were very few Jersey Cattle in the District, but today over 90% of the dairy cows are predominately Jersey. Years ago a prominent businessman of the District who also had a farm with Pedigree Jerseys wondered if it was worthwhile paying his sub of 10/- per year. He wanted to know what the Club did and was told that it had a membership of 38 with a sub of 10/- per annum yet subsidised the A. & P. Shows of Matamata, Putaruru and Tokoroa in value of cups and money of over £70. This was possible through subsidies from the N.Z. Jersey Cattle Breeders' Association and funds from the Bull Sale which has been held yearly since 1930. Besides these operations the club has had demonstrations by several of the leading Breeders of the Dominion. Needless to say he brought out his cheque book.

The last four years the Club has held a Jersey Oaks Competition with a Spring Show each year with two more under way. It now has a membership of over 80 with members travelling 40 miles to attend meetings with an average attendance of over 30. The Secretary is Mr. M. E. Goulds.

The Show was held on March 30th, 1911, in the Matamata Saleyards and Vosper farm (now Mr. Grant's).

On 26th July, 1911, Mr. J. Pohlen was elected a Life Member for Services Rendered. In 1914 it was decided to purchase for a show ground 14 acres of Mr. Egan's property, but it was not until 1916 that the Show was held on the new Show Ground. In 1919 the Show Grounds were sold to the F.A.C. for £100 per acre. At this stage arrangements were made with the Matamata Racecourse to hold the Shows on the Racecourse. The 1920 Show was held on the Racecourse.

In 1925 the Show was abandoned on account of infantile paralysis. The Association, in the years that followed, went through a very bad time. On account of the lack of interest of the members and low financial position. A meeting of members was called and a vote taken to wind up the Association but it was decided to carry on. A canvass for new members was made and over a hundred new members were enrolled. This effort put new life into the Association and from that date the Show continued to progress until it reached the present high standard. The Matamata A. & P. Association Show is now considered to be one of the best one-day Shows in the Province.

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MATAMATA PLUNKET SOCIETY

During the years that the Plunket Society, or as it is known officially, The Royal New Zealand Society for the Health of Women and Children, has operated in Matamata the work has grown steadily. In 1923 a sub-branch attached to the Hamilton Branch was formed, with Mrs. Moore-Jones as the first President of the Committee. The first Plunket Sister, Mrs. Constance Underwood, began visiting the district in August, 1923. In 1930 a Queen Carnival was organized when most generous support was given by the citizens of Matamata and of the surrounding districts. Enough money was raised from this effort to enable the present Rest and Plunket Rooms, opposite the Town Hall, to be built.

In 1942 the Matamata Committee decided to take the responsibility of becoming a full Branch with Morrinsville as a Sub-branch. In a short time Tirau joined, becoming a valuable Sub-branch. In 1945, Morrinsville was compelled to become a Branch and this enabled Waharoa to link with Matamata. Matamata is the Branch with a resident Plunket Sister, who visits the Sub-branches, Tirau and Waharoa, one day a week each.

The work has increased steadily during the years until now there is an average of three hundred babies visiting the rooms each month. There are, on an average, ninety visits a month paid by car to homes entailing a travelling distance of over five hundred miles a month.

A fairly new innovation has been the formation of the Mothers' Club, which meets once a month in the evening, and has proved most popular with the young mothers of the area, who are able to meet for discussions, demonstrations and social purposes. Its membership has grown steadily and the members are always ready to help the committee in any effort it makes.

The thanks of the Society go to all the people too numerous to mention who have given of their time and money so generously in support of the work in the Matamata area.

WOMEN'S DIVISION

Originally known as the W.D.F.U., this organisation has been in existence in Matamata for the last twenty-four years. Mrs A. Lambourne was the first President and Mrs. E. Griffiths the first Secretary. The functions of the W.D.F.F. are varied but those activities to encourage the household arts of cooking, sewing and floral arrangement contribute in a practical way to the cultural life of the district.

Branches of the W.D.F.F. exist in Matamata and the surrounding districts, and are federated under the Piako Executive. Probably the most valuable function of the local Division is the organisation of the housekeeper service for homes urgently needing this help. There are a number of rest homes throughout New Zealand maintained to provide holidays for women, and one at Wellington caters for families. By a travel scheme, women from one district may receive hospitality in another, and the Piako Division have received, and returned, hospitality in this way.

COUNTRY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The Country Women's Institute has been a very vital force among the women's community of Matamata since 1929, when Mrs. C. E. Barry called the inaugural meeting. Branches now exist in the Matamata and surrounding districts, united under the Waikato East Federation. The aim of the

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Institute is to improve country life and it undoubtedly achieves this purpose in many different ways.

The Federation of Institutes hold a Festival of Drama and musical items annually in Matamata. Members engage in social work of various kinds and are frequently called on for street appeals. By a travel scheme members may go on organised tours throughout New Zealand and also see some of the best Auckland entertainments. Recently the various local Institutes compiled a history of their districts. Mrs. G. G. Young is the President of the Matamata Institute and Mrs. H. Buckley is Secretary. The President of the Federation is Mrs. J. Kean of Waitoa, and the Secretary and tour organiser is Mrs. G. Sutherland of Okauia.

LADIES' CHOIR

In 1949 Mrs. A. Crabb founded the Ladies' Choir, a group of women who wished to train in choral singing for their own pleasure. The Choir is now in its fifth year and has delighted Matamata audiences on many occasions. It has had successes at various Competitions, gaining first place (twice) and a second at Rotorua, a first and a second at Te Awamutu. On two occasions the Choir has been broadcast from Rotorua.

EARLY SOCIAL LIFE

Mesdames H. E. Mogford, J. Cranswick and J. W. Simpson, who all married 1904 settlers, are the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Browne, well known early residents. Mr. Browne worked on the construction of the railway through the district and used to recall the hostility of the Maoris whose women at times lifted the men bodily from their work. Mr. Browne took up land at Waharoa and Mrs. Browne ran a store there and later at Matamata. Before the Waharoa School was opened the little girls travelled by train to Morrinsville, being able to attend only half a day. They used a spring cart from Matamata to attend the Waharoa School, but the roads were so bad that they frequently walked along the railway line. The family lived behind the shop and people knocked at the door at any hour of the day or night for provisions. Miss Bessie Browne (Mrs Mogford) was in charge of the first Post Office and telephone before her marriage.

The residents organised their own entertainment. Dances were held in the wool shed (on the site of the F.A.C.). The shed was cleaned up and the walls covered with greenery. The girls wore blouses and skirts, taking off the high collars of their blouses, perhaps, and adding a string of beads. Music was supplied by an accordion or concertina. Picnic parties were arranged to the Wairere Falls on special days. There was an accommodation house there kept by Mr and Mrs Forsmen.

Sunday school classes were held in the old woolshed, or even at the railway station. There was no church building, but a Minister would ride over from Morrinsville at three monthly intervals.

Mr. W. Stanley's buggy and pair was the wedding conveyance. Mrs. Mayford and Mrs. Simpson had a double wedding but Mr. Simpson, overseer of the Estate, was recalled from his honeymoon when the old Tower homestead was burnt.

Mr. B. Browne, who came to be known as the Father of Matamata, donated to the town the valuable sites on which the Matamata Public Hospital and the Anglican Church and Vicarage now stand. Elizabeth St., in which the hospital stands, was named after Mrs. Browne, Browne St. after Mr. Browne, and Cranswick Crescent after Mr. and Mrs. Cranswick.

Matamata County Mail

EHR Royal Tour 1953-1954 - Special Edition EHR

Registered at the G.P.O. Wellington as a Newspaper. TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 1954. 2 PAGES—3d. VOL. XX. No. 23.

Tirau's Welcome To Her Majesty: 10,000 Cheer

Ten thousand people, tense with excitement which had been mounting for days, roared a tumultuous welcome to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, when they paid the Matamata district's homage to the Royal Family at the Tirau Domain on New Year's Day.

It was a glorious, never-to-be-forgotten spectacle of ever-changing movement and brilliant colour. The Queen, petite but apparently tired after her strenuous days since she arrived in New Zealand, was a picture of charm, dignity and great beauty. The Duke, a bronzed smiling figure, showed the keenest interest in all around him.

The whole Tirau Domain presented an extremely colourful picture as the thousands paid their homage in temperatures well into the eighties. Gay, summery dresses, colourful hats and parasols and even the shirts of the men and youths combined with the decorations to give an ever-moving sense of colour.

Officially, the time set for the visit to Tirau of the Royal Party was 10 minutes. But Her Majesty and the Royal entourage was with the excited thousands for 27 minutes—precious minutes which will live in the memory of all who were privileged to be there.

The first people arrived at the Tirau Domain at 6 a.m. to ensure that they got vantage points on the terraces overlooking the dais. Even at that hour, there was plenty to interest the early-comers. Trucks were rolling in laden with flowers and greenery.

Thousands of flowers had been sent to collecting points throughout the previous day and were brought to Tirau early in the morning in time to be laid on a foot-deep layer of well-watered moss to form a series of designs which created admiration and amazement from all who saw them.

Flanking the carpeted steps leading to the dais were flowers ranged in places depicting the red tea carpet. The motif was carried round all four sides of the dais with hundreds of thousands of blooms, with red, white and blue predominating.

Immediately above this glorious carpet of flowers were arrayed several hundred trees in boxes, trees both native and exotic—and above their agents, were potted plants in their hundreds.

Gay bunting and banners above and around the dais completed a picture which was truly dazzling with the Royal entourage the centre as surrounding any effects they had so far seen on the Royal tour.

Thousands of fluttering flags suitired every lane and byway, while the ever-familiar seven-wire fence took on an unaccustomed dress of red, white and blue.

At the main entrance to the Domain, the Union Jack and the New Zealand flag were entwined with a set of gate fronds and through this arch could be glimpsed, on a 24-inch-drop, the Matamata district's welcome—a canvas which bore the Royal Cypher—E II R —Long Live the Queen.

By eleven o'clock, more than 1000 eager people had taken up positions and crowned themselves of a front row seat for the great moment when the Royal Party arrived.

They were invited, over the public address system, to be given the honour of the opportunity to inspect the glorious floral decorations around the dais. The admiring stream, four deep around the dais, seemed endless as newcomers to the ground joined the end of the queue.

Influx

From noon, the main influx began. Crowded trains arrived from Waihi, Paeroa, Te Aroha, Morrinsville, Putaruru, Matamata, Hamilton, Cambridge—from all points of the compass—to show what Tirau today was the magnet for thousands from a wide area.

Car parks off the main highways and in the side streets were filled long before reports were coming in of hundreds assembled at strategic points from Paeroa to the Matuhi Hills.

Excitement at the Domain mounted as radio commentators described the scene from the Auckland Town Hall. Domain officials, police in fatigue dress, were relayed through the public address system. Spontaneous cheers broke out from time to time—and Tirau, though the Queen was still far away, felt that it must join in the welcome.

In no long time, aeroplane spotters took off their T.A.B. tickets to check against the race results as they came over the loud-speakers.

Five teams of marching girls from Matamata, Putaruru and Waihi gave a spectacular display of the New Zealand salute in their marching. They marched to the excellent music of the combined Matamata and Putaruru Citizens' Bands. The bands also played selections to while away the waiting hours.

By 2 p.m., the heat was intensified by the sun's rays and many improved the warmth of their hearts and organisation as children and adults, overcome by the heat, were taken to strategically-sited first aid posts.

A tap and hose, installed for the watering of the floral carpet, were also welcomed and several buckets of water were made available to those suffering from the effects of the heat.

A report that the Queen had left Kaniere ruled the already tense excitement to almost fever pitch and the Tirau Band began to warm up with 1000 school children rehearsed for the great moment.

Heat

A minor relief to the mounting tension came when Fire Brigades men from Matamata, Tirau and Putaruru, who had been on traffic control in the sweltering heat since early morning, marched to take up their positions facing the entrance.

Growing cheers showed the popularity of the Queen as the cavalcade from came the police—thirty experts of law and order who had been with the Royal Party throughout their tour. They too, were accorded a typical New Zealand welcome.

At the entrance to the Domain Kiwis and Diggers proudly displayed medals representing many campaigns in many theatres of war. These men had the honour, and rightly so, of being the first to be presented to great-hearted Queen—the daughter and grand-daughter of the Kings they had served.

Along the route leading to the dais, excited Brownies and Girl Guides waved their flags tearing the Guide salute to shreds in their excitement as they have been excited, for our visitors, every time—showing their Queen and Sovereign, but also the leader in their movement.

Tension mounted, cheers broke out from all parts of the ground as the Royal Party arrived at the entrance. Mr. Hon. G. Holland, and the member for Waikato, Mr. G. F. Sim, drew slowly round the ground to the dais.

Tenseness

Tumultuous cheering from 10,000 throats greeted the announcement that Her Majesty had reached the Tirau Post Office after driving through a street lined with her cheering subjects—a street gaily bedecked with a myriad of flags.

The scene of enthusiasm, running into high pitch at the cries above that Tirau, of the whole Matamata district, was conscious of the honour that here the Queen was receiving an official welcome and that their town was the only county centre to be host to the Royal Party.

Terrific tension swept the Domain as the cheers of the crowd losing the cavalcade from the Tirau Post Office reached the dais. This was the moment the crowd, possibly 10,000 odd, had planned and dreamed of since the great day it was announced that Her Queen was to visit the Matamata district.

Then, an extraordinary silence came over the thousands. But in this brief moment, there was an electric buzz of crashing sound—the sound of tension.

Forgetting to greet her were Rt. Hon. Sidney Holland, M.P., Prime Minister and Mr. Sim, the member for Waikato, Mr. G. F. Sim, the chairman of the Matamata County Council, Mr. E. D. Bayly, Mrs White, and the County Clerk, Mr. J. A. Peck and Mrs Peck.

While this official party was awaiting the arrival of the Queen, the Prime Minister took the opportunity of making the following presentations. His sincere appreciation must have been gratifying to those who had worked so hard in this labour of love and loyalty.

The Duke

The Duke of Edinburgh was the first to step from the car. He turned and assisted Her Majesty to alight. Then came the Queen stepped out.

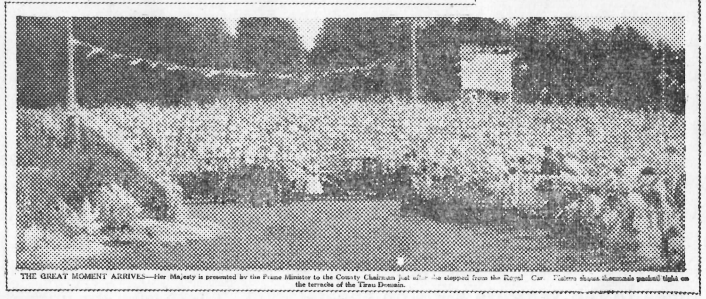
The official party was then presented to the Queen and the Duke by Mr. Holland. Following this, Mr. Sim, on behalf of the Matamata County Council, Mr. R. G. H. White, escorted Her Majesty to the dais while the Duke and Mrs White followed.

All the way to the steps leading to the dais, the Queen showed the keenest interest in the magnificent floral decorations which surrounded it.

Once on the dais, the strains of the National Anthem echoed round the Domain as 10,000 loyal New Zealanders payed their homage. Perhaps never before in Tirau's history, or as it might have been, for it was evident that many eyes and ears were in the throat made it difficult for many to give full vent to their feelings.

As the strains of the National Anthem died away, the Queen, accompanied by the Duke and Mr. Holland, smiling, completely charming, waved the gloved hand in recognition of the Matamata district's loyal welcome.

Her Majesty Smiles On Tirau



THE GREAT MOMENT ARRIVES—Her Majesty is presented by the Prime Minister to the County Chairman just after she stepped from the Royal Car. Flowers shown immediately right on the terraces of the Tirau Domain.

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MATAMATA METHODIST CHURCH

Methodist preaching services were commenced in Matamata in 1903 by the Rev. Joseph Blight (the father of the present Minister). The township was then part of the Upper Thames Circuit, with headquarters at Te Aroha, and extending from Coromandel to the Mamakus, and from Morrinsville to Katikati. With the more regular conduct of services, a very amicable plan was made with the local Presbyterian Church, whereby the two Churches combined in Sunday School, Choir and Preaching; the services being conducted alternately by the Presbyterians and Methodists. This united arrangement proved very satisfactory. With the growth of the population, it soon became necessary for the Methodists to have their own place of worship. The valuable site occupied by the present building was donated by Mr. W. S. Allen; and while the necessary arrangements for a new building were being completed, services were held in the Farmers' Hall.

The present Church was opened in 1914 during the ministry of Rev. C. W. Brown, and through the years has proved a worthy House for the worship of God. The 'Matamata Circuit', as it was then called, included for a time the growing township of Putaruru; but in 1924 the latter place became a separate station. Names prominent in the early history of the Matamata Circuit were those of Hawke, Oates, Casleys, Mrs. Francis Brown and family, Dixon, Ellery, Ward, Ellis, the Vosper Brothers, Harris and Neil. Matamata Church is the centre of the Circuit, in which preaching services, Sunday School and Bible Classes activities are carried out in six other centres. The present minister is the Rev. J. M. Blight.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Prior to the completion of the present All Saints' Anglican Church in Matamata in 1908, Home Mission Services were held in various places by visiting clergy from Morrinsville from 1901 onwards, the first recorded service having been conducted by the Rev. E. Murray on the 17th February in that year some four years or so before the subdivision and settlement of the Matamata Estate. Old records show that a Public meeting was held in the present Matamata Public Hall on 6th December, 1906, under the chairmanship of the late Reverend Archdeacon E. M. Cowie for the dual purpose of endeavouring to secure the services of a Curate to serve this district and to take steps to raise funds for the erection of a Church and at this meeting the following Church Committee was set up: Messrs C. Green, H. G. Molford, G. Smith, James Steen and J. W. Simpson. Messrs. C. Payge and J. Cranswick were added later.

As the result of that first meeting in 1906, the services of Rev. W. H. Egdell were secured as Home Missionary for visits to Matamata and it was decided to commence the building of the present Church as soon as £150 was in hand for that purpose. At a meeting of the committee on 16th December, 1907, the Anglican Trust Board offered to lend the committee £150 towards the cost of erection and a decision was made to proceed with the building of the Church. The new Church was opened at a service conducted by the late Rev. Archdeacon Willis on the evening of the 16th June, 1908.

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" FLOWERS FOR THAT JUBILEE OCCASION "

The first annual meeting of Parishioners was held on the 18th April, 1910, but it was not until the annual meeting in 1911 that the first Vestry was elected, comprising Messrs. J. W. Simpson (Vicar's Warden), C. E. Harrison (People's Warden), G. J. Duxfield, G. Brown, J. Cranswick, R. Webster, T. Bowler and C. Green (Vestrymen). In 1911 Morrinsville cum Matamata and Tirau was constituted a Parochial District in charge of the Reverend J. C. Fussell. In 1912 a fund was commenced for the provision of a Vicarage and in May, 1920, the present Vicarage was constructed and shortly afterwards occupied by the Rev. W. E. Connolly, who remained in charge until 1926. During his charge the Matamata District was created a separate Parochial Disfrict.

He has been preceded by the Reverend C. A. Mallet 1918, Reverend T. H. C. Partridge, 1918—1919 and Reverend C. R. Moir 1919. The place of the Reverend W. E. Connolly was taken in 1926 by the Rev. Canon C. W. Turner who was in charge until 1930 and he was followed by Rev. J. W. Buckley (5 years) and the Rev. Archdeacon G. F. W. Oulds who was in charge for 11 years from 1935 to 1946, the longest period of service of any Priest in the Matamata Parochial District. The Reverend G. L. B. Gribble was appointed in 1946, and was succeeded in April, 1949, by the present Vicar, Reverend Canon J. Adams, from Waitara.

The first Sunday School was in charge first of Miss Bartle and later Miss Mary Brown (now Mrs. Cranswick), assisted by Miss Hilda Green (now Mrs. Silas Ellery). The marriage of Miss Hilda Green to Mr. S. Ellery was the first solemnised in All Saints' Church on 24th February, 1909. No record can be found of the first baptism. Messrs. J. Cranswick, C. D. Rollett, H. G. Mogford, J. W. Simpson, A. G. Wrigley, W. G. Catcheon, A. Ennion, and the present Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. D. C. Connor, have given faithful service for varying periods in the office of Secretary and Treasurer.

After many years of work and anticipation the Parish Hall has been built, a modern building in permanent material, and is proving the asset any Parish Hall should be for the social and educational life in all Parish life. The Bishop of Waikato, the Right Rev. J. T. Holland, Dedicated and opened the Hall on 27th November, 1952. The present Vicar is the Reverend Canon J. Adams.

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

In or about 1904, Rev. E. O. Perry investigated the need for holding Presbyterian services in Matamata, and collected £43, the amount needed to buy the site for the Church. In 1907 the Church was built during the term of Mr. Harold Peat, who had been a carpenter before he took up the ministry. It seems that Mr. Peat was the real builder of the Church as he not only did much of the actual work of construction, but he did a lot of the planning and arranging. The station bell of the Firth Station was promised (apparently by Mr. McCaw on behalf of Mr. Firth) for the first Church built. After the estate was wound up, the bell was left at the corner of Tower Rd. From there it was lost till Mr. Peat made inquiries and with the help of Mr. J. Pohlen procured it and set it up in its place to call the people every Sunday to worship God. After a series of short ministries there came the eleven years of Rev. A. C. Hampton who was inducted to the charge in 1924, a man who is remembered with great affection today.

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In 1924 a hall was built to cope with the youth work, but in 1943 in the ministry of Rev. Murray Feist, B.A., Dip.Journ., it was recognised that both Church and Hall were too small. A fund for the purpose of building a new Church and increasing the facilities of the Sunday School was started. In 1951 the old Church was removed to the rear of the Hall and used for Sunday School purposes, while services are being held in the Hall till the new church is built in this Jubilee year, 1954.

At first the parish extended as far as Mamaku in the South and Walton in the North, but in 1926 Tirau became a separate station linked with Rotorua, and in 1926 Tirau became a separate station. But even so Matamata is today one of the largest country parishes in N.Z. with 2000 Presbyterians under pastoral care. Bad roads in the early period caused services of worship to be held in small self contained communities. Churches were built at Waharoa, Hinuera, Walton and one under construction at Te Poi. Services are also held in halls at Okauia, Turanga-o-moana and the school at Richmond Downs. The present Minister is the Rev. A. M. Ferguson.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Matamata Church of Christ began in a small way in 1935, when a few families met together in one or other of the homes for Christian fellowship. Messrs. G. W. Kermode, C. Downey and Reg. Hall with their wives constituted the foundation members. For a number of years meetings were held in the Farmers Hall, Tainui St., as several more families came to the district and became interested in the activities.

When the Dept. of Agriculture took over the Farmers' Hall property, meetings were transferred to the St. John Ambulance Hall in 1950. Pastor E. T. Williams was called as the Church's first resident Minister in 1951—and the work of the Church has proceeded happily under his leadership since that time.

During the past six years, over 20 members have been lost to the Church mostly through removals. The present membership is 30. An attractive Church Hall is now under construction in the Vincent estate, Peria Road, which will be a real asset in the future activities of the Church in this district.

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"The hot water rises into a rocky oval basin about twenty feet long by eight feet wide. The water rises round an old tree stump which projects from the bed of the basin to within a few inches of the surface of the water which is two feet deep with a sandy bottom. On three sides of the basin the banks rise abruptly to a height of thirty feet and are profusely covered with verduae of every hue and variety. This hot spring is a charming spot, sheltered from all winds, and after reclining in the warm water, a plunge into the river is an invigorating finale. The spring has for ages been famed among the natives for its healing virtues. In cases of rheumatism it has worked the most surprising cures."

The early settlers found flax growing profusely round the district. They cut their flax and sold it to mills at Waharoa and Morrinsville.

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CATHOLIC CHURCH OF MATAMATA

In the year 1840 Archbishop Pompallier made his second visit to Tauranga, and decided to go inland in answer to a passing request from the chiefs of Matamata and the Waikato "to bring the light of the Gospel to them." He crossed the Kaimais by the old Te Kooti track, and at his first view of the plains, called it the valley of the Holy Angels. He was accompanied by the Maoris to Okauia, where he found about 600 natives, of whom 10 per cent were baptised Protestants. He remained a week, giving instructions, and inscribing about 500 names on his catachumen list before leaving. He could not send a priest immediately, but in 1841 sent Father Seon to take charge of the new station, naming the parish Holy Angels. In the next year a church was erected on Mr Eccles property, one of the first Catholic churches to be erected in New Zealand.

Towards the end of the century the Kerrs, Summers, and Farrels were practically the only Catholic families in the Matamata district, until 1904 when the Estate was divided. Then came the Fitzgeralds, Kilbrides, and Mr Joe Pohlen, and later the Ryans and Quinlans. From 1904 to 1907 the Catholics of Matamata were under the care of the late Dean McGuiness fo Te Aroha.

In 1908 the Matamata station was united to the Cambridge parish under Monsignor Holbrook, who during his six months stay, secured the present site for the church and presbytery for £40. The great credit must be given to Mr Joe Pohlen in the choice of this site. Father Holbrook was succeeded in Cambridge by the late Father W. Murphy. He erected the church which was opened on 12th December, '09 with accommodation for 100 at the cost of £400. This was the last of the four churches erected at Matamata. The number of Catholics was then 40.

In 1919 Matamata became a separate parish with its own parish priest, Father J. Taylor, who, having no presbytery remained as the guest of the late Mrs Kilbride until 1923. That year the presbytery was built for £2500, and the next year the church was enlarged to twice its original size for £800. Father Taylor was succeeded by Father D. V. Silk on the 14th August, 1925. Father Silk immediately saw the need for a Catholic school and convent, and the present site was purchased for £183 10s. Dr. Gray's residence was bought as a convent for £762 10s in 1929, and in the same year, the school was built with accommodation for 250 pupils, at a cost of £2,750. The foundation was laid by the late Bishop Cleary. We purchased our own bus to bring in children from the outlying districts, but this had to be discontinued when the financial burden became too heavy. The present school roll is over 140.

Owing to a fire at the convent in 1951 it became imperative not merely to repair, but also to extend the building. This was done by 1952, when the building was modernized and brought to twice its original size for a cost of £2,500. The Catholic population had increased so rapidly in recent years, that it became necessary to have the church enlarged again, making it at least three times the original size; new lead-light windows were installed, the choir extended, and new seats purchased. All this cost £3,500.

SPORTS IN MATAMATA

Matamata as a district has gained more than its share of sporting recognition. Not unearned by any means. Matamata has been fortunate, in that over the years a number of "sportsmen", in the broad sense of the word, have resided in the district, and have left permanent "living" monuments to commemorate their passing.

Bedford Park in name means little to new residents, but to those who resided here in the mid-20's, the name Bedford will always be linked with Messrs. Bowler Bros., former residents of Bedford, England, who generously donated the ground now known as one of the finest Rugby football grounds in the Waikato.

The Matamata Domain was not used as a multiple sports area until the late thirties, when the Mayor, Mr W. Gordon, placed the re-surfacing of the area into the hands of a sub-committee headed by A. E. Wrigley, with C. D. Molesworth O.C. of manual operations. The levelling, transporting of soil, etc., 18 inches of filling in places, cost the ratepayers approximately £35, and the labour was the Borough staff who fitted in their normal duties, plus Government subsidised labourers. The completed project provided Matamata with the finest banked grass cycle track in the Auckland province, and was quoted by top-line athletes as being second to none in New Zealand as an all-round athletic ground.

The Centennial Baths was another project carried out a few years later, and opened in May, 1952, by Mayor J. Buchanan. With the amenities available to the town and district, it is little wonder that the overall standard is high.

The local sporting population is very fortunate in the support the coaches and other officials have given to assist the youth of the district in their attainments. To name some that come to mind in sporting arenas are:

Dr. J. Mackereth, Waikato and Matamata selector and coach, who did much to further the sport of Rugby football in the district.

Dr. J. Laurenson, New Zealand tennis champion and coach in Matamata.

The late Archie Campbell, who put his all into the sport of boxing, actively instructing when over 70 years of age.

Buff Keeley, golf and tennis administrator, plus fervent supporter of every phase of sport, and coach to Waikato champion girls' marching team.

C. D. Molesworth, athletic coach and advisor, boxing and Rugby administrator and practical assistant on grounds needs of each and every sport played in the district; draughtsman in the planning and execution of the work entailed in the building of the Centennial Baths, that were later chosen by the Waikato Centre as the best available in the province to cater for the N.Z. Diving Championships in 1951.

Athol Bainbridge for his unselfish work for his local club, plus his individual triumph in gaining Centre status for both Waikato Athletics and Waikato Cycling. Mr. Bainbridge received his due recognition in being the only Matamata official in the British Empire Games organisation which successfully held the British Empire Games in Auckland in 1950.

Among our local products to win New Zealand top honours are:—

Hugh McLaren, Rugby football.

W. J. (Duff) Potter, N.Z. 3-mile track champion and N.Z. cross-country champion.

Charlie Farmer, New Zealand light heavy-weight champion.

Ted Carrucan, New Zealand 440 hurdles champion.

Jack Stanley, New Zealand 220 swimming champion.

Nessie and Margaret Beverley, New Zealand doubles and singles tennis champions.

Tweenie Evans, New Zealand Junior table tennis champion.

Dixie Cockerton, New Zealand basketball representative.

Joyce Clothier, New Zealand cricket representative.

Ken Mudford, New Zealand representative at Isle of Man T.T.T.

With the exception of Ken Mudford who needs mostly road work for training, each and every one made the grade from the use of Matamata amenities and resided in Matamata district when top honours were attained. It is a record that Matamata can look to with pride.

MATAMATA RACING CLUB

It is more than a jubilee for the Matamata Racing Club as the club's records show the first race meeting was held in 1891—63 years ago.

The records show that revenue was received from Hawkers 15/-, side shows 14/-, bookmakers £8, and to have a policeman present a fee of 10/- had to be paid. The programme for the first meeting held is interesting reading compared with today's programmes. The races were mostly for £7, the second horse £1 from the stake.

The club went through a very hard time in the years that followed and at one stage a vote of the members was taken to wind up the club. This was defeated and 50 members put in £10 each and became life-members. This money helped to pay the preliminary expenses in the purchase of the present racecourse from the late E. C. Banks and C. W. Green. At this stage the club arranged an overdraft with the bank, secured by 40 members going guarantor for £200 each.

The guarantors were relieved of responsibility in 1937 and a flat mortgage for £5000 was raised. This was paid off in 1951 and the club have now an unencumbered property. The present members' and official stand was erected in 1937 at a cost of under £2000. No mention of the club would be compete without the names of perennial President J. Pohlen and Mr. B. C. Taylor, recently retired after 22 years as secretary.

A policy of the club was to provide good training tracks, and this was born out by the report of the 1946 Racing Commission which stated that the Matamata Club provided more race tracks than any club in the Auckland Province, except the Auckland Racing Club.

The club is finding it hard to provide facilities with only two permits.

The Matamata Club were the first to use the Win and Place system of betting in the Auckland Province, and at a later date installed the Photo Finish and the Electric Totalisator.

Matamata-trained horses have won a number of important races, some of which are as follows:—

Valpeen, Grand National Steeples (2); Surpeen, Grand National Steeples; Dumbo, Grand National Steeples; Duke Royal, Grand National Steeples; Crimson King, Wellington Cup; Lady Foxbridge, Great Northern Derby; Rosslare, Easter Randicap; Lord Moss, Great Northern Guineas.

The following horses also won many good races:—King Rey, Contango, Golden Idea, Kauri Pine, South Riding, Reveltide, Royal Scot, Duvach,

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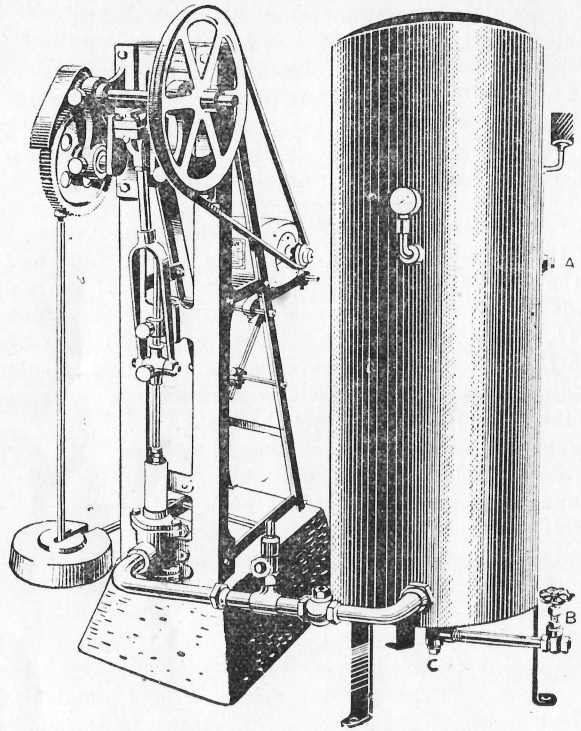

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'PHONE 547

GOLF

Although golfers throughout the Matamata District will be contributing towards the cost of sending a N.Z. team to the 200th anniversary of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews in 1954, golf has only been played in Matamata since 1921. In that year a meeting of those interested in playing the game decided to form the Matamata Golf Club and a nine hole course, laid out on Mr. George Johnston's farm at Peria, was officially opened on 21st May, 1921. Mr. B. C. Taylor was the first President and there were 60 members on the roll. After playing for two seasons the club was split on the question of site. The Matamata Club decided to shift to Mr. E. C. Banks' property, but several members continued to play at Peria and formed the Rocky Downs Club. The former Club played on Banks' property for four years, then transferred to the Racecourse in 1927, but eventually went into recess in 1930. The Rocky Downs Club carried on until 1935 when a meeting of three delegates from each club decided to accept Mr. Frank Underwoods' proposition regarding links at Okauia. An 18 hole course was laid out by Mr. Redhead, golf architect of Rotorua, and 9 holes were opened for play on 4th May, 1935, with a roll of 75 members. The club eventually gained control of the Course on January 31st, 1938, and ever since that day they have been very generously treated by their landlord, Mr. W. A. Aitken. The war years proved difficult ones for the club, but since 1946 a plan of progress has been carried out with much constructional work. Now the club has one of the finest country courses in New Zealand, and today members are reaping the benefit of the foresight of earlier committees. Last season 1300 visiting golfers paid Green Fees. In 1953 the Club held its first Provincial tournament, the Waikato 72 hole Championship, with the N.Z. Amateur Champion, D. L. Woon, creating a new course record of 64 and a total of 271 for the four rounds. For 1954 the Club has been allocated its first National tournament, the Ladies' Autumn Foursomes, and this will be played during the first week of May. Outstanding performances over the years have been Miss N. Beverley's record as Lady champion 1926—1952 and Mr. F. Hutchinson being Club champion for 11 years, 1921—1932. On the executive side there is Mr. B. C. Taylor, President for 12 years; Mrs. J. E. Hollis, Ladies' Secretary or Captain for the past 19 years; Mr. H. G. Keeley as Secretary, Captain or President for the past 25 years, and Mrs. R. Burke, member of the Ladies' Committee and President of the Ladies' Club for many years. The services rendered to golf by these four members has been recognised by the granting of Life Membership.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

The Matamata Football Club was formed in 1921, but went through many vicissitudes. It was reformed in 1931 with "subscription 2/6, employed players to contribute 6d a week and unemployed players 3d a week to build up a travelling fund." After many ups and down including periods in recess Mr. A. G. Findlater and some enthusiasts reorganised in 1945, and affiliated with the South Auckland F.A. in 1946. The next year the Borough Council made a new football ground on the Domain available. The Club at last started regular fixture matches in the New Waikato F.A. Somehow a yearly balance was struck, even when as low as 1/2.

In 1950 "Swifts" won the Waikato Championship and many other trophies. Last winter Seniors won the Championship but then lost it on a technicality. The Juniors won their Championships.

Throughout the club's chequered history some members have remained intensely loyal, including D. Waterson, Alex Findlater, J. Foggo, the late Arthur Turtle, Bob Ritchie, H. Bellen, G. G. Griffiths, M. McKinstry, and since 1945 S. Pievett, E. J. Dewse, E. A. Grant, J. McInnes, R. Simensen and R. J. Tiddy. With a core of experienced players from Britain, Holland and New Zealand and many young lads more suited to Soccer than Rugby keen to play, the Swifts should not look back. Even though players often pay part of the expenses out of their own pockets they travel 1000 miles a year.

MATAMATA BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

Basketball is the largest sporting organisation for girls in Matamata and caters for approximately 360 girls. Twenty-six years ago games were organised between School and Old Girls. In 1932 an Association was formed with Miss E. V. Bell as President and Miss McDonald as Secretary. In the same year a Referees' Association was formed and Mr. J. Pohlen donated a handsome cup for A Grade competition.

Matamata organised its first tournament in 1938. In the year 1940 Matamata was affiliated with the N.Z. Association as an honorary member, The following year they played in the N.Z. Tournament and on winning were promoted to 2nd Grade. Matamata was granted full membership to the N.Z. Council in 1942.

The changeover from the High School Courts to those in the Domain, a scheme whereby Tennis used the courts in the summer and Basketball in the winter, was the greatest step forward the Association had taken. A Primary School grade was established in 1950.

Trophies won this season were the Hayhurst Cup, at the N.Z. Tournament, the Marching Cup from Tauranga, A Shield for play, a trophy for the neatest turned out team and a trophy for marching from the Te Puke Tournament, the Ramsay Trophy at Matamata, and the Kurungaituku Trophy from Rotorua.

Much of the success of the Association can be attributed to the hard work and leadership of its enthusiastic president, Miss E. V. Bell.

In 1904

The 1904 settlers have vivid memories of the rain and wind of their first season. Mr C. Payze left Cambridge in a spring dray, taking the whole of a very wet day to do the journey. On his arrival at his section at Turanga-o-moana he found that the boy he had sent ahead on horseback had pitched the tent under the pines. The tent was hastily shifted and they retired uncomfortably, waking in the middle of the night to see the stars overhead. The Turanga-o-moana wind had lifted the tent and carried it right away. It has never been recovered in the fifty intervening years. The food was all spoilt and they had to return to Cambridge for 'breakfast!'

Mr. A. Strieff, a Swiss, applied for a section in the ballot for the purpose of planting a vineyard. He drew the farm now owned by Mr. P. Beverly. His section was on the market at the end of the year and Mr. Payze, anxious to be rid of the Turanga-o-moana wind, and having a purchaser for his own farm, was on the point of buying when he enquired if there was wind at Peria. Thinking to please, Mr. Strieff replied: "Oh yes, plenty wind" (throwing his arms wide) "all the winds that blow." He lost the sale and Mr. Payze waited for many years before he settled in the comparatively calm Peria district.

RUGBY IN MATAMATA CLUB 60 YEARS AGO

There is probably no more popular institution in Matamata Borough and District than the Rugby Football Sub-Union which has won every major trophy that it is possible to compete for.

It is on record with the New Zealand Rugby Union that a Matamata Club was registered with Auckland in 1890. That is actually two years before the New Zealand Rugby Union itself was formed. Unfortunately there are no records, but very old residents state that the matches in those days were mostly against adjacent large Estates such at Patetere (Tirau) and Locherbie (Morrinsville). The shepherds, ploughmen and their sons must have been very keen in those days as their travelling would be up to 40 miles for a match over tracks and dirt roads on horseback.

Soon after the turn of this century Matamata secured its first organised major success by winning the Piako Banner, a trophy competed for by the best teams, in what was then termed, the Goldfields.

Prior to World War I there was a properly organised Sub-Union at Matamata affiliated to the old South Auckland Union. Prominent in those days were the Headmaster of the Matamata School, Mr H. J. Moore-Jones, Mr E. R. Greatbach, Mr J. E. Cummings and Mr Albert Mateer. Some of these gentlemen used to drive a double buggy to Te Aroha, or Waihou, where the Union meetings were usually held. It may be said that since the Matamata Estate was cut up and opened for selection, Matamata has been in the forefront in helping to organise Rugby Football throughout Goldfields and Waikato.

There was a suspension of activities during 1914-17, but in the latter year the young fellows and returned servicemen felt the urge to play the good old game and in 1918 the district was again organised so that it was ready to take part in the resuscitation of the South Auckland Union (now Waikato.) Among the most active men of this period were Messrs H. J. Moore-Jones (President), A. G. Yardley (Secretary and Delegate to the Union), Albert Mateer, David Morrow, R. G. Lewis (Patetere), Harry Lewis (Waharoa) and a little later J. E. Cummings and C. E. Barry. To the two last mentioned may be attributed most of the present solidity of the Matamata Rugby Football Sub-Union. With the increase in population and the popularity of the game the finding of playing areas was a difficulty. This was overcome about 20 years ago, to a great extent, by the magnificent gift by Messrs A. and E. Bowler, of Bedford Park and the gates. Messrs Cumming and Barry were appointed trustees and did great work in connection with the formation of the present playing areas. Two original settlers, Messrs J. W. Simpson and J. Cranswick were also associated.

Today the Matamata Rugby Sub-Union holds the esteem not only of the Waikato Union but of all Rugby Executives in the country. The team work of 30 years ago is being continued ably today, with Messrs R. Hastings (President), Ray Dobson (Secretary) and W. W. Kuhtz (Delegate to the Waikato Rugby Union).

Matamata has had its share of victories for the major Waikato Union trophies in all grades. In 1921 it was the first Sub-Union to win the Finlay Cup when it came under the Waikato Union's jurisdiction and held the trophy for three years. It won it again in 1928, 1932 and also in 1953. The Matamata Rugby Sub-Union first won the Peace Cup, a senior trophy competed for by practically all Sub-Unions in the Auckland Province, Thames Valley and Bay of Plenty in 1931. It won it again in 1934 and 1939. Last season it won three of the four major grade trophies of the Waikato Union, the Finlay (Senior), Lion (Senior B) and Cucksey (Thirds) Cups.

Last year the Sub-Union had the honour of supplying the captain of the All Blacks, M. H. C. McLaren and trialist, George Nola. It has supplied other trialists and may properly claim another All Black in David Solomon who toured England, Ireland, Scotland and France.

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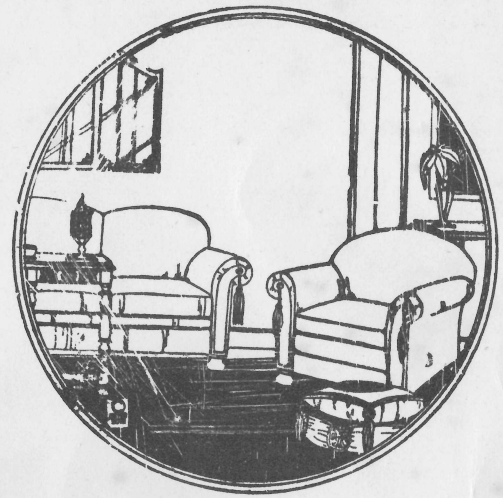

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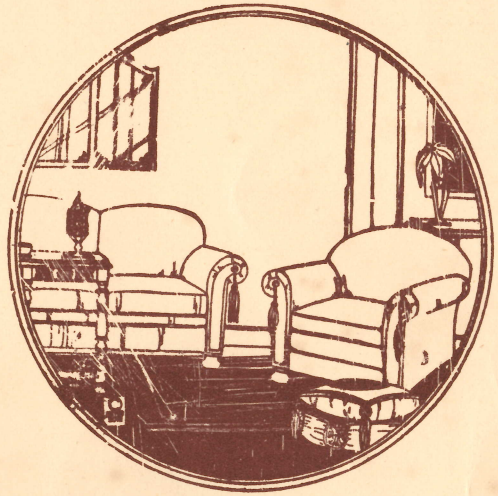

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